

No 61,083

Huge Sattar lead in Bangladesh

Early official returns in the Bangladesh presidential election showed Mr. Abdus Sattar, the acting President, heading for a sweeping victory with a 7-1 lead over Dr. Kamal Hossain, his principal opponent. An angry Dr. Hossain called a press conference to accuse the Government of "bribe manufacturing" of results. Back page

Trident missile goes off course

A Trident missile which was fired from a submerged submarine veered off course and had to be destroyed in mid-air. The missile was launched from the USS Benjamin Franklin about 50 miles from Cape Canaveral. Back page

Engineering pay offer may rise

The Engineering Employers' Federation is likely to raise its pay offer to two million employees from 3.16 per cent to between 4 and 5 per cent on national minimum rates. In the coalfields, Mr. Arthur Scargill described a 9.13 per cent offer as wholly insufficient. Page 2

CND fights off extreme left

Mr. John Cox, a leading communist, was defeated for the post of chairman of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and resolutions designed to move the CND towards the extreme left were defeated at the annual conference. Page 2

Private steelmen seek state aid

Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, is under pressure to announce possible government aid to bail out the recession-hit independent steelmaking companies. A Cabinet committee will discuss whether such a move is justified later this week. Page 13

Nasa worried by shuttle future

The curtailed flight of the space shuttle Columbia, which landed safely at the weekend, has renewed fears at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of budget cuts and the possibility of increased control of the project by the Department of Defence. Page 6

Russia rebuked by Communists

The Congress of the Communist Party of Great Britain passed a motion condemning the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and urging the withdrawal of Russian troops. An amendment backing the invasion was defeated. Congress report, page 3

EEC divisions highlighted

The European commissioners have spent the weekend in private session reviewing progress in their plan to reshape the EEC. But not a single decision has been taken, and the Rome-Born initiative for European unity has only high-lighted divisions. Page 7

Stockman on Reaganomics

"Reaganomics", the economic policies of the President White House, were under fire before the President's budget director, David Stockman, voiced his doubts last week in *The Atlantic Monthly*. Today, *Business News* publishes an interview with that interview, and comments on prospects for the United States economy. Page 15

China aids GLC

The Greater London Council has raised a £12m loan on the international money market which includes a £2.5m contribution from the Bank of China. The money will be spent on housing or transport. Diary, page 10

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Prior asks for calm, Paisley wants action

From Christopher Thomas, Belfast

Leading British and Irish politicians united in a call for calm yesterday after the murder of the Rev Robert Bradford, official Unionist MP for South Belfast, in his constituency on Saturday.

The killing which marks a sinister change of tactics by the Provisional IRA, raises the appalling prospect of retaliatory attacks on senior Roman Catholic and Protestant figures. Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, flew to Belfast on Saturday night to talk to senior Army and police officers. He called on "loyalists" to stay calm and added: "The more provocation there is, the more reaction, the more we are playing into the hands of the IRA. The worst possible thing would be for a reaction against what has happened."

Similar calls came from moderate politicians of both sides of the sectarian fence in Northern Ireland. In Dublin Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, appealed to "loyalists" not to retaliate.

He attributed the attack to an attempt to disrupt the Anglo-Irish talks but insisted that both governments were determined to continue the search for a solution. He said the intention was also to create tension among Protestants and to stimulate counteraction against the minority Catholic community.

The Rev Ian Paisley, using his renowned style of innuendo and half-suggestion, promised from the pulpit of his Free Presbyterian Church in Ravenhill Road, Belfast yesterday that next Monday would be a "Day of Action" in Ulster against the developing Dublin and Westminster accord.

Notably, Mr. Paisley made no direct reference to the murder of his friend, Mr. Bradford. Although consistently threatening a violent Protestant backlash against Britain's "betrayal" of Ulster, Mr. Paisley has made a point of keeping his distance from those actively engaged in violence.

The IRA tactics seem designed to provoke sectarian strife in order to increase its self-appointed role as defender of the Catholic ghettoes. It is also attempting to raise morale after the chaotic end of the Maze Prison hunger strike and to scupper the improving relations between Dublin and Westminster.

No Ulster MP has been murdered in 12 years of civil strife and it will be some days before it is known whether Protestant paramilitary leaders will pick up the gauntlet and plunge Northern Ireland into a new and particularly ominous crisis.

There were some immediate signs, however, of a backlash.

Mr. Gallagher, Dublin-based President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, made his plea while preaching at a South West Belfast church where he had heard Mr. Bradford's funeral. The Orange Order is supporting the stoppage.

Although a Methodist, Mr. Bradford will be buried from a Presbyterian church at Dunadry in the eastern suburbs of Belfast.

Over the past decade Sir Michael has prosecuted a number of important Provisional IRA trials in Britain. Yesterday he said that he thought an attack was "always on the cards" and that there was a limit to what security arrangements could be made.

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher spoke to Sir Michael after the attack and she has been kept informed of police investigations into what is the fourth IRA attack in London in five weeks.

Yesterday Scotland Yard would not comment on the extent of security provided for Sir Michael but senior officers were likely to be perturbed by the way the IRA managed to get so close to the home of a senior Government minister. General security arrangements had been tightened up already earlier this year.

Sir Michael and his wife were in Madrid at the time of the attack on Friday evening, and the flat, in a large house on Woodhayes Road, Wimbledon, was empty. The house is guarded by uniformed police and on Friday a woman police constable was at the front. Surveillance equipment protected approaches to the building.

Despite this the bomber is thought to have reached the

house across a playing field at the back. The device was left against a wall and was powerful enough to destroy two bedrooms, one of which Sir Michael used, and a back hall. If Sir Michael and his wife were home they would have been injured or killed by the explosion.

Sir Michael's address is recorded in the 1981 edition of *Who's Who* and the bomber appears to have had a good idea of the layout of the house and the flat itself.

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By Rex Bellamy

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Connors was fined \$400 (about £220) for obscenity, but McEnroe's case was more serious. Fines appeal these fines will take McEnroe's total for 12 months beyond the permissible limit for what are quality known as "minor offences" and he would therefore incur an automatic 21-day suspension.

Next Friday a three-man committee of arbitration will make their judgment about McEnroe's fine. The fine or \$5,000 (about £2,750) imposed on him for the "major offence" of allegedly bringing the game into disrepute during last summer's Wimbledon.

Like such celebrities as, for example, Rik van Nieuwenhuijzen, McEnroe plays four weeks of tournament tennis in Britain every year—Wimbledon, plus the tournaments at Queen's Club and Wembley. But this year's Wimbledon and Wembley events have so serious a clouded his career, that in future he may be more chary of British tournaments.

Yesterday's Wimbledon final contained some thrilling tennis, but was marred by the arrogant conduct of both players, especially McEnroe. McEnroe and Connors were rude to the umpire, a Hammersmith schoolmaster called John Parny. Both incurred fines. The general atmosphere of the match, had more in common with the excesses of prize-fighting than the traditions of tennis.

After his victory, Connors said that the match was "unfair on McEnroe". "They should buy their tickets, sit down and shut up," he said.

Connors also believed that to stage a protest, the umpire had "ruined the match". "When McEnroe is on court you need to get the very best. But this fellow was continually getting flustered, calling the wrong score, that was very upsetting."

However, Mr. Parny, the umpire, defended all his actions.

"It is all a matter of degree of judgment of what is going on out there, and I was absolutely clear in my mind that McEnroe was overstepping the mark. If we carried the match again I would not change a thing although, of course, I would be happy to have eradicated some of the mis-calling."

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Improved offer in engineering pay talks likely

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

Engineering employers are likely to hold out the prospect of an improved offer of between 4 and 5 per cent at pay talks affecting almost two million workers today.

Union leaders are expecting a marginal improvement in the Engineering Employers' Federation's present offer of 3.16 per cent increases on national minimum rates after the 3.8 per cent settlement at BL Cars.

The employers may not table a fresh offer at all if the unions are adamant that they will reject anything which falls well short of their claim for rises to match the level of inflation.

An improved offer is likely to be in line with the present level of plant-by-plant settlements in the industry, which sets minimums and in most cases bargains locally on actual earnings. That is running at between 4 and 5 per cent.

An increase of that level would be considerably higher than the margin between the BL and engineering settlements this year and last. BL, which left the federation for bargaining purposes after the national engineering pay dispute in 1979, settled in 1980 with its car workers for 6.8 per cent. The federation settlement on minimum rates was 8.2 per cent.

The federation's talks are the highest in the private sector and a settlement of less than 4 per cent would be a considerable fall to the Government's hopes of its public service pay targets having some impact in manufacturing industry.

The present offer would raise the weekly skilled minimum rate by £2.50 to £81.50 a week. Earnings on average are said by the employers to be £114 for skilled and £86 for unskilled for a 39-hour week.

Mr Scargill, the left's chosen candidate in next month's election for the union's presidency, said in a campaigning speech to miners in Pontypridd, South Wales, that the National Coal Board would save £50m from a recent 10,000 drop in manpower and gain £25m from the most recent price increase. Mr Scargill said the union should say there was no "way we are going to deviate from our conference decisions". The union's annual conference in Jersey, this summer endorsed the miners' 23.7 per cent pay claim.

Mr Scargill said the union needed a new right-wing president like a tree needs Dutch elm disease.

For management and union leaders will hold fresh talks this week in an attempt to avert

Whitehall union chief raises poll doubts

By Our Labour Correspondent

Mrs Kate Losinska, president of the Civil and Public Services Association, alleged yesterday that there had been irregularities in elections for the posts of general secretary and treasurer.

Mrs Losinska, who is likely to convene the union's full executive tomorrow, said last night she was considering asking for a rerun of the ballot after what she said was an abnormally high number of complaints.

In the more important of the two polls Mr Alistair Graham, the union's present deputy general secretary, is standing against Mr John Macreadie, a supporter of the Trotskyite Militant Tendency for the post of general secretary. Mrs Losinska said last night that there were complaints of abuses which would favour the left-wing candidates.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, the retiring general secretary, and Mr Graham, the present deputy general secretary who is being backed by the executive for the general secretaryship, said last night that they were unaware of any detailed complaints of irregularities which would justify a rerun of the election.

Mrs Losinska said last night that there had been cases of both unusually high and unusually low turnouts in the election from meetings of some of the union's 1,000 branches, and these would have to be investigated. She said there had been a wide variety of complaints about the conduct of the ballot.

She said she had been told that in the Whitehall branch of Defence branch only six of 3,500 members appeared to have voted. At one West London branch where there had been more voters than the number of members entitled to vote the ballot had been abandoned.

Mr Graham said last night: "I have not had electoral malpractices brought to my attention and I am not making any formal complaints at this stage."

Mr Thomas has written to Mr Macreadie asking for an explanation of the circumstances under which literature supporting his election campaign was sent out by the Civil Aviation Authority group, of which Mr Macreadie is an officer. Mr Macreadie said last night that the 14-man group executive had decided on its own accord to support him as candidate and had made a collection of about £70 to finance the distribution.

Mr Macreadie said that the union's right wing had made the accusations in a last minute attempt to influence the third and final week of polling which ends this Friday.

□ The TUC will tell the Megaw inquiry on Civil Service pay today that the Government should not interfere with the award of new pay.

The inquiry was set up under the chairmanship of Sir John Megaw following the five-month strikes in the service over pay earlier this year.



A wine that continues to amuse

Four members of The Parachute Regiment's Red Devils freeride team keeping the chill out with a glass of Beaujolais Nouveau yesterday after landing in a lake bearing bottles of the wine.

Their arrival near the Fresham Pond Hotel at Churt, near Farnham, Surrey, was preceded several hours earlier, at just after midnight, by another group of Red Devils who plummeted to the Queen's Hotel at Farnborough, Hampshire.

By such events, Beaujolais Nouveau continued to amuse by its presumption (Robin Young writes). It is many years since The Times, in complicity with Mr Egon Ronay, the noted gastronome, and certain sommeliers in France, exposed the truth that the whole Beaujolais race is founded in fiction.

We did it by producing several bottles of the supposedly unobtainable wine in

London three days before its official release to Britain. Those who raced according to the rules—leaving Belleville in the Beaujolais at midnight with the wine in an assortment of 42 high-powered vehicles, veteran cars and London taxis—straggled into London during the morning to find that they had been well and truly beaten by those who jumped the gun.

Several had to suffer the chagrin of speeding to their destination past signs saying "Beaujolais Nouveau on sale now".

The 1981 vintage was hailed as superb in Beaujolais, but the consensus yesterday after the excitement had ended was that however enjoyable the racing, flying and skydiving, the wine itself was disappointing: acidic and lacking in fruit.

National Trust appeals to businessmen for cash

By Tony Samstag

The National Trust has asked businessmen to supplement the "magnificent support" from its membership and the public, which it says is no longer sufficient to resist the inroads of inflation.

Mr Angus Stirling, deputy director general, told The Times yesterday: "The approach we intend to make to the business community is very important." That approach was signalled by Lord Gibson, the chairman, during the Trust's annual meeting in Bourne, Lincolnshire, at the weekend.

Among the projects that might benefit from an increase in revenue are the purchase of the largest bequest offered to the trust, namely 15,000 acres in Dorset comprising Corfe Castle, part of Sturminster Bay and the ancient monument of Badbury Rings.

Land's End is on the market at £1.75m; the trust hopes to announce its decision on

16 in peril on stricken trawler

Winds gusting to more than 100 mph last night battered the French trawler Ludovic-Jego, which was being towed to Stornoway, in the Hebrides, after sending out distress signals when she was in the Atlantic, 140 miles west of Lewis.

The trawler, which has a crew of 16, was being towed by another French trawler.

An interim settlement has been agreed in a dispute involving 200 members of the National Graphical Association, which has stopped production at the East Midlands Allied Press group headquarters in Peterborough, for two weeks.

Christmas gift thefts

Parents are encouraging children to steal their own Christmas presents from stores because they know that if the children are caught, penalties will be less severe or charges will not be brought, Devon and Cornwall police say.

Bomb alert halts train

A London-Aberdeen express was halted near Newcastle upon Tyne last night when a passenger reported ticking from an unattended parcel. After half an hour, the owner claimed the parcel which contained a clock.

Hat-trick for hand

Grimsby Colliery Band won the Rochdale Brass in Concert championship at Darlington yesterday for the third year running.

Welsh cottage fire

An English-owned holiday home was examined yesterday to establish whether Welsh fire bombers were responsible for a blaze there.

Town hall blaze

Fire badly damaged Bolton Town Hall on Saturday. At the height of the blaze, about 140 firemen were involved.

FEARS OVER POLICE RACE ATTITUDES

The police are being urged to look into the question of setting up special and racist squads to investigate alleged racial attacks against blacks and Asians.

The call comes from the Commission for Racial Equality which says that the police should recognize racial harassment as a serious phenomenon requiring concerted action.

"They should record all incidents and be in a position to take action to prevent such harassment," the commission says.

The statement, which is to appear in this week's issue of the Joint Council Against Racism's News, the publication of the all-party committee against racism, says the commission is very concerned about the level of racial harassment.

SILENCE OVER SMOKING CLAIM

Mr Denis Thatcher, the Prime Minister's husband, was staying quiet yesterday about a report that he sought to lessen the Government's campaign against smoking.

The report, in The Observer, alleged that Mr Thatcher approached Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Health, and said that point would be badly affected if its sponsorship were threatened.

In September, Sir George Young, minister in charge of negotiations with the tobacco companies, was moved from the Department of Health.

He is a vigorous opponent of smoking.

ROYAL COUPLE IN SECLUSION

Fifteen hundred people were disappointed when they went to Sandringham church in Norfolk yesterday in the hope of seeing the Prince and Princess of Wales. Instead of attending service, the couple spent the day in the Queen's secluded 10-bedroom Woodfarm House at Wolferton, three miles from Sandringham.

On Saturday night, they celebrated the Prince of Wales's 33rd birthday with a dinner.

CND fights off threat by extreme left wing

By Clifford Longley

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament emerged from its annual conference in London yesterday well armed against the slings and arrows of its enemies, who have accused it of being the puppet of left-wing manipulators.

A leading Communist was roundly defeated for the post of chairman; the newly elected national council will have a wider political spread; and resolutions designed to move the CND towards the extreme left were rejected.

The allegation that CND takes money of Soviet origin was not only rebutted, but clearly refuted by speaker after speaker, and "Russian roubles" was a catchword in joke of the conference.

Monsieur Bruce Kent, the general secretary, said: "Dr Lums of Nato has lied in his claim that western peace movements have received massive funding from the Soviet Union; but mud sticks. In various forms all round the country it has been falsely claimed that CND is in receipt of such findings."

The conference decided not to revive the Aldermaston marches, but to concentrate on a day of action next June and a policy statement on "non-violent direct action", drafted by the national council, was agreed without dissent.

The example in everyone's mind was the peace camp at Greenham Common, near Newbury, where campers are obstructing plans to develop the site as a base for American cruise missiles. The campers received much moral support and the proceeds of two collections.

The debate did, however, tend to be dominated by the more extreme-minded activists, with the Socialist Workers' Party and the Militant Tendency in evidence, but the results of voting belied such single-mindedness.

Resolutions demanding that CND should adopt John Nottingham's main official slogan, and that it should make the union and labour movements priority targets for campaigning, were rejected.

A more modest statement of ambition towards the latter was adopted, after amendments had broadened and softened it; and

The book explains that when a woman's vaginal mucus is sticky and produces a sensation of dryness, it acts as an impenetrable barrier to sperm cells. At such times a woman is infertile.

When the mucus is slippery and wet, however, usually for about three to six days in a cycle, microscopic examination reveals hundreds of tiny channels which aid the passage of the sperm through the vagina and the cervix to the uterine tubes, where fertilisation occurs.

The book gives instructions about how to record the cycle and includes eight pages of colour charts and photographs, could also be useful to women trying to become pregnant, because it explains the signs of the most fertile period.

The Billings Method, controlling fertility without drugs or devices, by Dr Evelyn Billings and Ann Westmore (Allen Lane, £5.95 ISBN 0 7132 1454 8).

Science report

Tribal birth control needs no drugs

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A rediscovered method of birth control, which involves no drugs or devices, is being promoted in a book published today.

The method, in which women observe the state of their vaginal mucus to discover their fertile period, has been studied and developed by an Australian couple, Evelyn and John Billings, who are both doctors.

It has been practised by tribal groups in Australia and Africa for thousands of years but the Billings think it could appeal to many women in the developed world, who for religious, medical or other reasons, do not want to use the contraceptive pill or other methods.

They claim it is more effective than the traditional rhythm method, used by many Roman Catholics, which involves keeping a temperature chart and judging when they have ovulated by a rise in temperature.

In studies of 875 women using the method in New Zealand, the Irish Republic, India, the Philippines and El Salvador, the pregnancy rate was about 20 per cent, but Dr Evelyn Billings claims in the book that 12.9 per cent departed from the method and had intercourse during the fertile period. Another 5 per cent were incorrectly taught, she says.

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EEC 'SPY' CAN STAY IN BRITAIN

By Robin Young

Mr Stasley Adams, the former honorary British consul imprisoned, after exposing illegal price fixing by his employers, the Swiss drugs firm Hoffman-La Roche, has been granted the right of permanent residence in Britain.

Mr Adams is a Maltese, although he held a British passport until Malta became independent. He had been honorary British consul in Colombia. As a senior executive of the drugs company which led to Hoffman-La Roche's conviction of breaking the EEC's competition laws by price fixing in the vitamins market.

He was charged with economic espionage and violating Swiss industrial secrecy. He spent three months in prison in 1974 before being given a one-year suspended jail sentence.

His wife committed suicide while he was in prison.

CORRECTION

The membership of Consumers' Association is 615,000, not 615, as it appeared in The Times of November 5.

The original image processor.



Some improvements.

Image processing has come a long way. With the help of a computer, it is now possible to clarify, enlarge, reduce or amend any picture that has been generated electronically: by TV camera, satellite sensor, industrial scanner, x-ray or electron microscope.

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Lords ruling will clarify the law on contempt

By Frances Gibb

A test case opens in the House of Lords today over whether the Contempt of Court Act should prevent the disclosure of documents in legal proceedings although they have already been read out in open court.

The case, which will be watched closely by the press and legal profession, has been brought by Miss Harriet Harman, legal officer for the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCC), who is challenging a Court of Appeal ruling earlier this year that she committed a gross contempt of court in showing to a journalist Home Office documents which had been read out in court.

The action for contempt, brought by the Home Office, stemmed from another action brought by a prisoner against the Home Office over his solitary confinement in the controversial and now disbanded control unit at Wakefield Prison.

Miss Harman, acting as the prisoner's solicitor, had successfully obtained about 800 confidential Home Office documents central to the case through the legal process of discovery. The Home Office resisted the release of the documents but the High Court found their release was in the public interest.

It was some of those documents which Miss Harman showed to a journalist after the case had concluded

but while judgement was pending. They formed the basis of an article in *The Guardian*.

The Court of Appeal, presided over by Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, ruled that an undertaking, given by a solicitor, that documents obtained by discovery would not be used for any purpose other than that action, did not vanish when the documents were read out in open court.

Attempts to change the law on this point were unsuccessfully made during the passage of the Contempt of Court Bill through Parliament. But the Law Commission's report on breach of confidence published last month made clear its view that whether or not Miss Harman was in contempt in this case, the obligation of confidence did not apply to information which was in the public domain.

The Commission's report said: "We do not think that civil liability for breach of confidence should persist after the information to which the relevant obligation of confidence relates has been published in open court."

The House of Lords will clarify the law, if at some cost to Miss Harman. The council has raised about £8,000 to fight the case and will need more.

The original action by the prisoner, Mr Michael Williams, comes before the Court of Appeal next week.

Students seek £70-a-week grant

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Student leaders are to meet Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary of State responsible for higher education, today to press for a 17.4 per cent increase in the student grant. That would bring the maximum grant to more than £2,000 a year or about £70 tax-free a week, during the academic year.

Mr David Aaronovitch, president of the National Union of Students, said that it would also be seeking clarification of reports that students were to bear the brunt of further proposed Government cutbacks in education spending.

"We are incredibly worried about recent press reports which tell of abolishing the £410 minimum award paid to all students regardless of their parents' income, of drastically increasing the parental contributions, and of limiting the increase in the student grant to 4 per cent or less," he said.

"The Government seems poised to inflict great hardship on students and their parents. The grant's real value is in danger of falling so steeply that only the wealthy will be able to go to college. Most students have already been forced to take out bank overdrafts; many are now living in real poverty."

In claiming a 17.4 per cent increase in grant, students were simply asking the Government to give them back the real income they had in 1978/79 when the Conservatives came to power. Since then, inflation had outstripped the rise in grant by 20 per cent.

Furthermore, many universities and colleges were ask-

My students live well on...



Poor diet: NUS view of Sir Keith Joseph. The plan covers the National Guards' medical services requirements throughout the kingdom. The task includes overall training schemes, countrywide health care facilities and a comprehensive casualty evacuation system.

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Over 14pc of British households 'in poverty'

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

At least one household in seven in Britain lives in poverty, despite 30 years of anti-poverty programmes, according to an independent study prepared for the European Commission and published today by the Policy Studies Institute.

The proportion of people living in poverty has not changed since the start of the welfare state, the study says. But present economic policies may worsen the position by both contributing to mass unemployment and by abandoning anti-poverty policy as a priority.

The study, one of nine on member states commissioned as part of the European anti-poverty programme, says that at least six million people in the United Kingdom are poor. The worst conditions are found in Northern Ireland, where poverty is 50 per cent higher than in the rest of the United Kingdom, unemployment and low wages are exceptionally high.

Poverty remains largely a problem of old age, but policies developed during the last 30 years have removed the elderly from destitution and offer the hope of real improvement.

Poverty and the Development of Anti-Poverty Policy in the United Kingdom, Richard Berthoud and Joan C. Brown. (Heldemann Educational Books, £13.50 hardback, £6.50 paperback).

Prisons: Top security Maze-style reforms sought in England

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Prisoners' strikes, followed by a petition from 156 Parkhurst inmates, indicate growing tension in top security prisons.

The prisoners protest that they are being treated unfairly in comparison to those in jails in Northern Ireland, for which Mr James Prior, Secretary of State, has announced further reforms.

The discontent is heightened by the apparent decision by Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, to ditch the idea of automatic early release for prisoners serving shorter sentences.

Those in top security prisons are more likely to be serving long sentences, but the sense of injustice remains. The Parkhurst petition, sent to the National Prisoners' Movement (Prop), says: "We, the inmates of HMP Parkhurst, demand that we be given equal status with other prisoners in the United Kingdom (ie, Northern Ireland). We demand the following: 30 day remission, 100% clothing, weekly visits and two letters a week."

The petition says that on October 25, Parkhurst inmates held a token 24-hour strike in support of those demands. On October 29, and again on October 28, Mr Keith Gibson, the regional director of prisons, visited the prison to discuss the demands.

The Prison Department continued on Friday that 140 prisoners at Parkhurst refused to work for one day in a passive demonstration on October 26. Prisoners at Hull, another top security prison, also went on token strike. But the department denied that Mr Gibson went specially to the prison to discuss the matter.

The message from Hull prisoners, passed on by Prop,

was: "Northern Ireland has had half remission for eight years. Hope for it has hung over us since then and we are organizing a 24 hour strike to let Mr Whitelaw know we are thinking of him as he considers the fundamental changes which he admits are necessary."

Prop claimed that discounting prisoners on segregation, in the prison hospital or on special wings, the Parkhurst petition signified almost total support for demands. Its population is about 220. Mr Geoff Coggon, the movement's secretary, said: "The Home Office will accept that half remission is available in Ireland because there is no parole system there. But parole and remission are not comparable. The first is a highly selective and secret process, which passes by many of the prisoners in the dispersal prisons, whereas remission is automatic and subject only to good behaviour."

In June, 25 inmates, Louisa, a top security prison near Worcester, smuggled a petition to the prisoners' movement with similar demands. But the petition also protested about the quality of medical care and said men began refusing to go to workshops because of concern about the deaths of two prisoners, one by suicide and the other of a heart attack.

The protest began with a letter smuggled to *The Times* in May by a prisoner in Wormwood Scrubs, who said: "I should like to know why 'conforming' prisoners in England are entitled to one-third remission even though they are better behaved and in most cases have been convicted of less serious offences."

Prisons: Sanitation

'Degrading' buckets still used in modernized cells

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The Prison Department is perpetuating a big cause of grievance in prisons, the practice of "slopping out" in the form of redecoration of 25 cells at Wormwood Scrubs, London.

Slopping out is the euphemism for prisoners emptying the contents of their used in cells when access to lavatories is not available. The practice is condemned as degrading throughout the prison service.

The Home Affairs Committee of the Commons recommended the provision of integral sanitation in the redevelopment of existing local prisons.

But in a letter to Mr Clive Soley, Labour MP for Hamersmith North and a former probation officer, Lord Belstead, Under Secretary of State, says that the start of work on the cells in A block would have to be delayed for two years because of operational difficulties were integral sanitation to be provided.

Mr Bill Jones, chairman of the board of visitors at Wormwood Scrubs, told *The Times* last night: "To modernize a wing and just continue the slopping out is appalling. Mr Gordon Fowler, the deputy director general of the prison service, is clearly equally appalled and tried to do battle with the prison board. The board met him over the issue."

Lord Belstead says in his letter that there is no delay to the start of work on a prison at Woolwich, he hopes it will be possible to build integral sanitation into the modernization and redevelopment of three other halls at Wormwood Scrubs.

At the end of the 10-year programme, A hall would be brought up to the standards then achieved in the rest of the prison.

Mr Soley said he intended to raise the issue in an adjournment debate on Friday.

WRIT HALTS NEW BLUNT CASE STORY

By a Staff Reporter

A High Court judge issued an injunction on Saturday to prevent *The Sunday Times* publishing further allegations on the spy circle surrounding Professor Anthony Blunt, the former art adviser to the Queen who was revealed as having been a Soviet agent within MI5 during the Second World War.

The injunction was issued by Mr Justice Jupp at his home in Hertfordshire hours before *The Sunday Times* was due to go to print. It runs until Thursday when the matter is expected to be heard in chambers.

According to *The Sunday Times* yesterday the allegations concern men identified by British intelligence agents as communist activists who lived in the United States. They are said to have had ties with the United Nations and the White House.

The injunction was given after a man arrived in London at the weekend and discussed the allegations with lawyers.

Elm Fund appeal rejected

By Hugh Clayton

The Government has rejected an appeal for funds to prevent disease from destroying Britain's surviving elms. The Tree Council said last month that a national campaign was needed to prevent Dutch Elm disease from spreading as much in the North as has in the South.

Most of the 10 million elms that survived from the pre-1970 population of 25 million are in northern England and Scotland. The council, a charity financed by 23 rural organizations, called for funds to finance the controlled felling and removal of diseased trees.

The Department of the Environment, a consultative member of the council, has decided not to support the scheme because the Countryside Commission, a grant-aided agency, feels that a worthwhile operation would cost too much. "There just is not enough money around to enable us to do the job properly," the commission said.

'New Scientist' celebrates 25 years of scoops

By Tony Samways

The *New Scientist* is 25 years old on Thursday. Its anniversary issue will celebrate "a quarter of a century of science and technology" with articles by Sir Fred Hoyle, Max Perutz and Sir Bernard Lovell. There will be a sale of original artwork from past covers at a London gallery, and a reception at the Royal Institution.

With a circulation approaching 85,000, not far off last year's peak, the magazine is obviously something of a success story. But the affection it inspires in its readers goes far beyond the circulation figures.

Its brief has always been a curious mixture of popularization and what its present editor, Mr Michael Konward,

describes as technical respectability. In recent years the balance has shifted towards the latter.

At its best, *New Scientist* has generated substantial news stories. Exclusives of which the staff are most proud include a feature on boardroom electronic warfare in 1975 when several of them were in the office in the Commons with a radio transmitter so powerful that a staff member standing on Westminster Bridge could listen to his conversations, and an extensive investigation of Uri Geller's claims to psychic powers that concluded he was simply a good magician.

This year the magazine has disclosed a crucial design fault in British Rail's advanced passenger train.

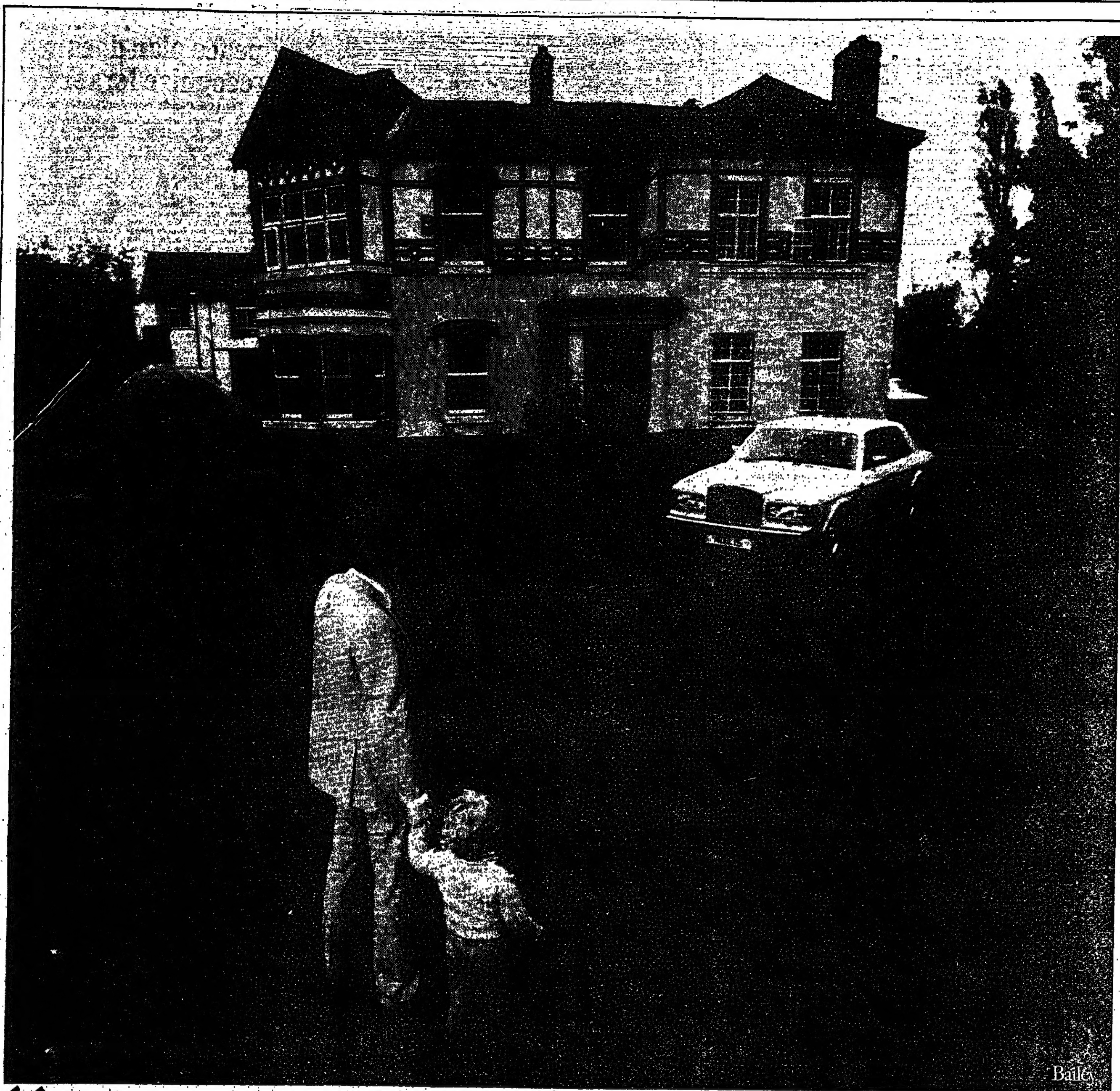
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1954	Nationwide ATC and aeronautical telecommunications system supplied to Sudan.
1955	Oil industry communications system for Venezuela. First meteorological services contract in the Sudan.
1958	First civil government Air Traffic Control School established in London. First public telephone company formed in the Gulf.
1962	Consultancy contract for setting up of new Jordan Airport. Second Gulf telephone company incorporated in U.A.E.
1965	First IAL North Sea oil operation. Supplying communications and maintenance services for Total Oil.
1969	IAL wins contract for UK SKYNET satellite communications system.
1971	New Dubai International Airport opens. IAL provides complete airport management and technical services.
1974	First computer based communications system for a public transit company, installed in Michigan, U.S.A.
1975	First comprehensive airport security system in Britain, at London Heathrow.
1978	Acquisition of CFM, Britain's largest independent computer maintenance company. IAL Status microprocessor based communications system launched.
1979	New Scotland Yard order IAL Status. British Rail buy IAL Status data network management system. Location office opens. Link formed with Cap Gemini Segret, international software group.
1980	£1m data communications network order from Halifax Building Society. Major Malaysian aviation services project.



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Reagan aide faces more inquiries about interview

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 15

The American Justice Department is continuing inquiries into the payment by a Japanese magazine of \$1,000 (\$525) to Mr Richard Allen, the National Security Adviser, for helping to arrange an interview with Mrs Nancy Reagan.

The announcement from the White House contradicted its initial statement last Friday that the Justice Department had concluded that Mr Allen had done nothing wrong and that the case was closed.

The contradiction reflects the chaos reigning in the White House where staff have been hastily trying to repair the damage done to the Administration by the revelation of Mr Allen's financial transaction with the Japanese, and the explosive comments about the programme by Mr David Stockman, the Budget Director, published in the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine.

Mr Allen also issued a statement this weekend which was intended to clarify his role in the affair. He admitted that he had received the initial request for the interview with *Shufunzomo* (Housewife's Companion) magazine and had passed it to others for evaluation and decision. The interview took place on January 24, one day after President Reagan's inauguration.

However, he denied that he had ever initiated or discussed the \$1,000 "honorarium" he received as thank you money from the magazine.

In a report from its Tokyo correspondent the *Washington Post* today quotes the magazine's executive director as saying that his company took the initiative in arranging the fee. The money was handed to Mr Allen after the interview and deposited in his office safe where it remained until last September.

Mr Allen's statement said the request for the interview came from the wife of a friend of many years standing whose husband had been an academic colleague of Mr Allen and who, like Mr Allen, had been a consultant for several Japanese concerns. He denied, however, that he had ever had a financial relationship with the man.

Mr Allen did not identify who had requested the interview, but a White House spokesman confirmed the intermediary was Mrs Chikako Takase, wife of Professor Takatoshi Takase, whom Mr Allen met in the 1950s at the Hoover Institution in California.

Last year Mr Allen resigned as a senior member of the President's campaign staff after the *Washington Post* alleged that he had supplied Mr Takase with confidential trade information after he had left the Nixon White House but while he was still serving on the President's commission on international trade and investment policy.

Mr Allen rejoined the Reagan team two days after the November election.

According to the *Washington Post* today Mr Allen has continued his contacts with Mr Takase since his appointment as National Security Adviser. Mr Takase visited the White House last March during talks on seeking voluntary export restraints by Japanese car manufacturers.

President Reagan, clearly upset at having his Administration involved in yet another embarrassing controversy, has spent the weekend in seclusion on a friend's farm in Texas shooting ducks and turkeys.

His initial comment on the affair was to say that Mr Allen would be staying on at his post because there was no evidence of any wrongdoing. However, he later refused to comment when asked whether Mr Allen would retain his position, explaining that the matter was still under review.

That now appears to be the official White House position. A statement released yesterday said: "In view of the fact that the Justice Department continues to have the matter under review, the White House will refrain from additional comment on this subject."

Karpov fails to exploit his minimal advantage

By Harry Golombek

The world chess championship match in Merano seems to have settled down to an alternating pattern of games of extreme violence succeeded by sedate and comfortable draws.

The sixteenth game started on Saturday was of the latter variety.

It followed game 14 for the first 14 moves and Viktor Korchnoi, the challenger, wisely substituted a knight move for a knight exchange, the point being that with his knight exchange in game 14 had encouraged the white queen to adopt a most dangerous strategic position.

There ensued some jockeying about for position in which both sides sought to obtain attacking chances. Anatoly Karpov, the world champion, on the kingside and his challenger in the centre, Karpov was particularly successful in his aims in that he was left with a position in which his bishop was superior to black's knight. But, in compensation, Korchnoi was able to gain a position where he had a supported and passed queen's pawn.

The game was adjourned on the forty-first move. It seems that experts on the spot thought Karpov had the advantage but, in fact, his advantage was minimal.

Play was resumed yesterday and Karpov must have agreed with this assessment, for he made only one more move and then offered a draw which Korchnoi accepted.

Sixteenth game
White: Karpov. Black: Korchnoi.
Roy Lopez opening
1 P-K4 P-K4
2 P-K3 P-K3
3 N-K5 N-K5
4 B-K4 B-K4
5 P-Q4 P-Q4
6 P-Q3 P-Q3
7 P-K3 P-K3
8 P-K3 P-K3
9 Q-K1 Q-K1
10 P-K3 P-K3
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34 P-K3 P-K3
35 P-K3 P-K3
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38 P-K3 P-K3
39 P-K3 P-K3
40 P-K3 P-K3
41 P-K3 P-K3
42 P-K3 P-K3
43 P-K3 P-K3
Position when draw agreed
Black: Korchnoi

White: Karpov

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100,000 join peace protest in Madrid

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Nov 15

Banners, bands, puppets and politicians made clear the message of Spain's left at a huge peace rally here today: "Nato No."

More than 100,000 protesters, gathered on this crisp, sunny Sunday, on the University of Madrid's campus in response to a call from the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and about 200 other left-wing organizations, to demonstrate for peace, disarmament and freedom.

Senior Felipe Gonzalez, Secretary-General of the Socialist Party, was the main speaker. He called for the end of the arms race, the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Europe, and the end of the arms race.

He also called for the end of the arms race, the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from Europe, and the end of the arms race.

200,000 Greeks march

From Our Correspondent, Athens, Nov 15

Up to 200,000 people chanting anti-American slogans and carrying banners, marked the anniversary of the United States Embassy in Athens was destroyed last night as they commemorated the eighth anniversary of the student revolt which triggered the fall of the military dictatorship.

As the marchers later dispersed youths hurled three fire bombs at the United States Embassy. No damage was caused and two youths were detained.

The march was the climax of the polytechnic campus, where a mountain of flowers was piled over an iron gate that was crushed by the junta's tanks as they moved against the students.

This year the marchers were allowed to pass the United States Embassy. Last year, the previous government, arguing that the Americans had no connection with the events at the polytechnic, had not allowed

the marchers to approach the embassy. In ensuing clashes with the police two youths were killed. Shop windows in central Athens were smashed.

The new government said it was confident there would be no trouble. Marshals formed a barrier along the embassy fence.

Also marching were a score or so of young Turks, marked to prevent identification, who said they were political refugees. A message of solidarity with them was read out at the rally that preceded the march.

The demonstrators accused Nato of imposing the military rule in Turkey and demanded Greece's withdrawal from the alliance and the closing of United States bases in Greece.

As they passed, the American embassy, which was heavily but discreetly guarded, the protesters chanted: "Americans, killers of peoples."

Shuttle has problems to overcome

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

The second flight of the shuttle is certainly a milestone in manned space exploration, but there is still much for the American space agency to achieve if this type of vehicle is to attain its goals.

It is now very important to meet the provisional date of March-April for the third launch, because the shuttle becomes a cheap form of transport only if each orbiter can be used up to 100 times and at short intervals.

The original programme called for six test launches starting in May 1979. By the end of November, 1981, 20 operational flights for paying customers should have been completed. But the number of test flights has been cut to four, and the first operational flight will not take place until 1983.

Moreover, there is a big technical penalty in using a shuttle flying in low orbit. It is ill suited for the launch of large spacecraft which say one place in relation to the Earth below and are used for communications, meteorology and navigation. Such geosynchronous craft will form about three quarters of those needed for commercial and industrial application in the near future.

To be placed in a sufficiently high orbit, the satellites would need engines of their own to lift them from the shuttle. Neither appropriate engines nor launching techniques have been developed beyond an early stage.



Watch this space: The Columbia space shuttle sends up a cloud of dust as it touches down on the desert floor at Edwards Air Force Base, in California, closely observed by a chase aircraft.

Pentagon likely to become chief paymaster of Columbia

From Nicholas Hirst

Houston, Nov 15

Magnificently but sadly, Columbia touched down in the California desert of Edwards Air Force Base on Saturday with officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration desperately concerned that the mission be seen as a success.

Nasa badly needed the flight to go well. It is threatened with budget cuts which could lead to the cancellation of some of its unmanned programmes; the space shuttle programme is late—at \$9,500 costing 30 per cent more than planned—and is worried at the possibility of increased control of the shuttle project by the Department of Defence.

No one could hide the disappointment of the astronauts, Colonel Joe Engle and Captain

Richard Truly, at being brought back from an intended five-day flight after only two and a half days. But mission control was adamant that the main purpose of flight, to show that the Columbia was a reusable vehicle, had been "accomplished very successfully".

But the project was already well behind schedule before the first launch in April. The second launch, originally planned for September, suffered successive delays from mishaps and technical problems, and after a big publicity build-up the lift-off fixed for November 4 had to be cancelled at the last minute.

President Reagan told the astronauts during the flight: "I'm sure you know how proud everyone down here is and how this whole nation—I'm sure the world, but certainly America—

has got its eyes and heart on you."

But the eyes of the world were on a flight that was not going as planned. The third flight of the shuttle has had to be put back from January to March or April and Nasa has already accepted that the planned two-week turnaround between landing and launch when the Columbia and its three sister ships become operational, will have to be more than twice as long.

People are asking if the project ever will provide a cheap, easy method of putting scientific experiments and spy, communications and even weapons-bearing satellites into space.

The number of shuttle flights between now and 1985 has been cut from an original 68 to 32. And if there is no stopping the requested budget cuts for fiscal

1982 of \$367m and a further \$1,000m in 1983 and 1984 the number might have to be reduced to 24.

At least 71 launches of expendable rockets—the type the shuttle was intended to replace—are planned in the next four years. This is more than twice the number that the orbiters will make.

The military payloads for the shuttle have not been cut back as heavily as launches for scientific and commercial satellites. The Air Force is spending \$2,000m on its spaceport at Vandenberg in California, and if further cutbacks are planned, the Department of Defence is likely to operate more shuttle flights than Nasa.

President Reagan's pleasure on his brief visit to mission control was obvious. But in view

of his Administration's concern with defence, Nasa must expect that any more money made available for the shuttle will go to military rather than scientific development.

Mr Michael Weeks, acting associate administrator for the shuttle programme, said that despite the curtailment of the mission, forced by a fault in one of the three fuel cells providing electricity for Columbia, more than 90 per cent of the important tests for the orbiter and the scientific experiments had been completed.

Nevertheless the curtailment has meant that some have been missed. The Canadian-built robot arm, intended to deploy and retrieve satellites from space performed, by everyone's account, superbly well, but had only a third of its intended testing time.

Saudi envoy says peace plan does recognize Israel

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington, Nov 15

Saudi Arabia's eight-point peace plan, does recognize Israel's right to exist, according to Mr Gaafar Allagany, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador at the United Nations.

In an interview which was reported in *The New York Times* Mr Allagany said about the controversial Saudi plan: "It does recognize Israel. We are not afraid to say that it does recognize Israel. We are not shying away from that word 'Israel' in any sense."

Mr Allagany's remarks are particularly significant as they go well beyond the interpretation of the Saudi plan put forward last August by Crown Prince Fahd.

There was uncertainty, caused by the translation of the Saudi plan from Arabic into English, over the exact meaning of the seventh point in the plan. It was unclear whether the Saudis were talking about the right of 'peoples' or the right of 'states' in the region to live in peace, and whether they meant 'all' or 'all of them, including Israel'.

But Mr Moathe Arens, the leader of an Israeli all-party parliamentary delegation visiting America, refrained to report on Friday that there was a very wide public accord in Israel that the Camp David peace process might be 'degraded' if the United States and Saudi Arabia moved closer together and if America encouraged the Saudi peace plan.

Mr Chaim Herzog, a former Ambassador to the United Nations and a member of the delegation, said if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accepted the Saudi plan "this will be seen as indirect, implied recognition of Israel, and then the bars to any United States dialogue with the PLO will be removed. We see the Saudi plan

as the beginnings of the dismantlement of Israel," Mr Herzog said.

□ The Palestine Liberation Organization sharpened its criticism of the Saudi peace plan today by rejecting the clause calling for the recognition of the right of all states in the region to live in peace (Robert Fisk writes from Beirut).

Mr Farouk Khaddumi, the head of the political department of the PLO, said Palestinians categorically rejected the Saudi plan and that this position was not open to discussion.

President Reagan and Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, have both stated recently that the Saudi plan implied recognition of Israel. Israel, however, has strongly rejected the Saudi peace formula, calling it a plan to liquidate Israel in stages.

Now, however, a senior Saudi official with 15 years' experience at the United Nations has confirmed that recognition of Israel's right to exist is part of the Saudi plan, which also calls for an Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Mr Allagany also said that the eight-point plan constituted a bargaining position and not a fixed stance. The plan is to be discussed at an Arab summit meeting in Fez, Morocco, on November 23.

Mr Allagany's remarks will almost certainly feature in talks which President Gaafar Nimeiry of Sudan will hold with Mr Haig and other senior officials when he visits Washington this week. President Nimeiry's views are of particular interest to the United States as the Sudanese leader is a close ally of Egypt which is currently engaged with Israel in carrying out the decisions of the Camp David agreement.

Breach of contract says Libya

Beirut, Nov 15.—Libya yesterday accused the American oil company Exxon of breaking its contract and Libyan law by renegeing its concessions in Libya, but its national oil company said the dispute might be resolved through negotiations.

The Libyan Oil Secretariat, in a statement issued by the official Libyan news agency Jans, confirmed today that it had received notice of withdrawal from Esso Standard Libya and Esso Sirte. The two companies, both of which are 51 per cent nationalized by Libya, are Exxon affiliates.

The secretariat said it had told the companies that their behaviour did not conform to Libyan oil law and "was tantamount to failure to carry out their legal commitments and a unilateral breach of contract".

In a separate statement reported by Jans, the Libyan National Oil Corporation said differences might be resolved through negotiations.

"Despite the divergence of views between the national oil corporation and the two companies on the legal standing of their behaviour, resolving the difference between the two sides through negotiations is not discounted," its statement said.

The corporation said that it would take whatever measures it deemed appropriate to serve its rights. The Oil Secretariat also said in its statement: "The secretariat has reserved and continues to reserve all its rights under the law".

Esso has given no reason for its move, and the Libyan statements shed no further light on it.—Reuters.

Last Libyans leave OAU force arrives in Chad capital

By Our Foreign Staff

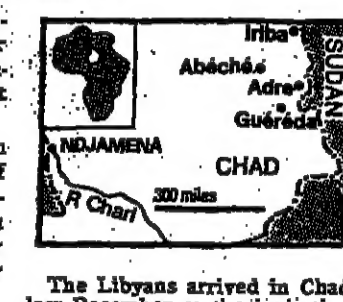
The first units of a pan-African peacekeeping force for Chad arrived yesterday in Ndjamena, the capital, as the last Libyan troops were leaving.

A Chadian military source in Ndjamena said that the town of Guerdere near the eastern border with Sudan had fallen on Saturday to rebel forces under Hissene Habre, the rebel former defence minister.

Zairean paratroops formed the vanguard of the new multinational peacekeeping force, which has been set up by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). They flew in from Kinshasa, the Zairean capital, and will be housed in the airport terminal while temporary quarters are found.

Zaire is one of six countries contributing troops to the force, which is expected to number about 5,000. The others are Nigeria, which will provide the largest contingent and the overall commander, Guinea, Benin, Togo and Senegal. Gabon and France are giving logistical support.

The Libyan Government announced from Tripoli that the last of their soldiers in Ndjamena had been withdrawn yesterday and that the last Libyan contingent in Chad was expected to leave the eastern town of Abcheche today. Ndjamena airport was lit by a huge fire on Saturday night as the Libyans burned equipment they could not take with them.



The Libyans arrived in Chad last December at the invitation of President Goukouni Oueddei to help defeat rebels. The strength of their forces has been put at between 10,000 and 14,000.

Over the weekend it was reported from Lagos that Nigeria had asked the United States to provide equipment for the Nigerian section of the peacekeeping force. Reports suggest Nigeria is not happy with the high level of French involvement and that the approach to the Americans is a means of counterbalancing this.

Dr Robert Ouko, the Kenyan Foreign Minister, said in Nairobi that the United States had offered assistance.

It is reported from Chad that the United States Agency for International Development has resumed grain shipments from Cameroon for refugees who have returned to Ndjamena from a camp across the Chari river in Cameroon. Washington has refused to allow food to be distributed until the Libyans had withdrawn.

Curfew in occupied Arab town

From Our Own Correspondent, Beirut, Nov 15

For the second time in less than a week the 10,000 Arab residents of this hillside town near Bechem have been subjected to a military curfew as part of the tough security policy now being pursued in the occupied West Bank by Mr Ariel Sharon, the Defence Minister.

The curfew was enforced by a large contingent of Israeli soldiers who arrived in the town before dawn this morning, a few hours after a petrol bomb was thrown at two Israeli buses but failed to explode. A similar abortive firebomb attack against an Israeli vehicle followed by a total curfew occurred last week.

Journalists were barred from the town on the orders of the military governor. But it was possible to see a number of Arab families gathered on the flat roofs of their houses as the security forces launched a search and arrest operation.

The latest curfew was imposed only 24 hours after the semi-official Cairo newspaper *Al-Ahram* revealed that the Egyptian Government regards the harsh new security measures now being imposed in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as a violation of the Camp David accord.

Quoting a senior Government official, the newspaper claimed that Egypt would be sending a written protest to the United States to Mr Sharon. The document will call on Israel to cancel the restrictions, release political prisoners and take other measures to hasten the participation of local Palestinians in the peace process.

IN BRIEF

Last night shift at the works

Stuttgart, Germany.—A Bavarian chemical works closed in and plunged 70 feet into a mine below its foundations, the works management said.

Ten night shift workers ran for safety when the walls cracked and a container crashed at the plant. They got out just in time to see the plant swallowed in a crater 50 yards wide. Damage was put at DM15m to DM20m (about £3.5m to £4.7m).

Anti-French bombs

Beirut.—A group demanding the release of Damiyoun Giorgis, a suspected Armenian guerrilla arrested in France, claimed responsibility for the bomb blast at an Air France office in Jounieh and a branch of the Lebanese-French bank in Beirut. They threatened to blow up an Air France aircraft in flight.

Shooting chain

Beirut.—A hitherto unheard-of Lebanese group today claimed responsibility for the gun attack on Mr Christian Adonis Chaggar, the American Charge d'Affaires in France, who was unhurt. It calls itself the Lebanese Revolutionary Armed Faction, Saleh-el-Misri group.

French arrest

Paris.—Police have arrested M. Jack Imbert, who is alleged to have stolen a luxury hotel in Saint-Paul-de-Vence, in August to steal the contents of 132 deposit boxes worth 15m francs (about £1.4m). The victims were never publicly named but were said to include well-known millionaires.

Mourning ends

Cairo.—Egypt's 40 days of mourning for President Sadat officially ended with a memorial service. At the same time American transport aircraft dropped nearly 1,000 paratroops in the Sinai at the start of Operation Brightstar, the joint American Egyptian exercise.

Fishermen saved

La Coruna.—Five crewmen who went missing after the 160-ton Spanish fishing vessel *Aldebaran* sank off the coast here were found alive by a Polish ship, port authorities said. The men were in life boats.

Activist sentenced

Moscow.—Mr Alexander Paritsky, a leading Jewish activist in the Ukraine, has been sentenced to three years in a labour camp after being convicted of slandering the Soviet state, friends of his family said.

Words of Deng

Peking.—The first collection of quotations by Mr Deng Xiaoping, vice-chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, is to go on sale shortly, the Shanghai *Wenhui* newspaper said.

Transformer blast

San Sebastian.—A bomb, the fifth in a week, destroyed an electric transformer at the Basque town of Villabona but there were no casualties, police said.

Another oil death

Madrid.—The death of a 55-year-old woman brought to 95 the number of people killed by contaminated cooking oil, hospital sources said.

Bahrain reunion

Mr Stuart Christie, the British businessman held for 18 months in Saudi Arabia, was reunited with his wife Jean in Bahrain after his release.

Rome-Bonn plan highlights EEC divisions

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Nov 15

The European Commission has spent the weekend locked in private session at Villers le Temple, south of Brussels, reviewing progress in their plan to reshape the European Community. It cannot have been a meeting where there was much cause for satisfaction.

After more than two months of intensive work, with Britain, the most interested partner, fortuitously in the driving seat as President of the Council, not one decision has been taken and wide differences separate the Community on essential points.

This may be no more than traditional European brinkmanship, but there are many pointers that several nations are unaware that any brink exists, while others are refusing to see it.

When Lord Carrington opens the foreign ministers' meeting in the morning, his main task will be to try to instil a sense of urgency into the discussions if there is to be any hope of progress towards the restructuring of the Community at the European summit in London at the end of the month.

Next year, Belgium, with all its domestic problems, takes over as President of the Council and is followed by Denmark, which of all the Community countries is least inclined to want any change. Failure to make progress now, could mean that the Commission's restructuring proposals, launched with such high hopes in the summer, will lose way, and come to a standstill.

This danger has prompted Italy and West Germany in an unlikely combination to produce a "European Act" aimed at giving new meaning to the old idea of European union. The document, to be given to the foreign ministers at their meeting, is a carrot being offered to the stubborn mule of the council, which is refusing change.

It conjures the idea of a Europe able "through a common foreign policy, to assume joint positions and take joint action in world affairs so that Europe will be increasingly able to assume the international role devolving upon it by virtue of its economic and political importance."

The Act accordingly suggests wider powers of political cooperation for the European Council, and a much larger role in this area for the European Parliament. The Commission itself is also to be involved in this area.

In dealing with Community problems the European Court would be given powers as an arbitrator but the document shies away from the idea that council decisions should be taken by a majority vote.

It also admits that the primary goal of the Act is strengthening the community, and that "the solution of the problems currently being dealt with is essential of the solidarity of the Community is to be strengthened". Given this essential factor, the Act can not be expected to achieve much headway while the battle over the mandate for change is fought. If the

Act is the carrot, and some states do not see it as very appetizing, it is up to Lord Carrington to wield the big stick in an attempt to move things along.

The council secretariat's review of progress on the three "chapters" of the mandate for change make gloomy reading. "Although the need for a relaunching of the Community is generally recognized, the different situations and interests of member-states have led delegations to divergent views on priorities and means," is the secretariat's polite way of saying things are in an unwholly mess.

The chapter dealing with the development of policies other than agriculture shows the most sign of there being a meeting of minds. Unemployment has been the catalyst for change, and it is here that the most detailed work has been possible.

The underlying problem is that not a great deal can be done, certainly in the Commission's view, unless the community has a budget higher than that possible under the present ceiling of a 1 per cent Value Added Tax rate.

To prove it is competent to run a larger budget, the Commission has in its second chapter sought to put the common agricultural policy in order and to reduce its share of the budget to under 60 per cent of the total. But the secretariat reports, "over-ambition exists both on the objectives of the adjustment, and the modalities to be used".

All these problems pale into insignificance alongside the third chapter covering what should be done about the European budget. The essential problem remains that of Britain's contribution.

The familiar British argument is that it is unreasonable and unfair to ask one of the poorer countries of the Community to pay almost the highest contribution, but it is an argument that is beginning to wear thin.

Embarrassingly for the British argument, their net payments over the past year have shrunk to a tiny £52m compared with the £445m originally estimated. The result is that West Germany, now beset by domestic problems, is refusing to shoulder the burden of paying for the Community on its own any longer. The argument is understood, but not appreciated by members who still believe that West Germany is rich enough to pay.

As a result, the budget chapter is still no better than a series of four conflicting options. Britain is isolated again with widespread support for the French view that no permanent mechanism can allow one country always to have subsidised membership fees.

No progress is being predicted at the foreign ministers' meeting. The suspicion is growing that Britain is preparing to fight the whole of the rest of the Community again. This time, however, the battle positions are weaker and the opposition can be expected to be even stronger.

Protesters blockade Frankfurt airport

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Nov 15

Hundreds of demonstrators today blockaded Frankfurt airport with burning barricades and sit-ins on the approach roads in an attempt to stop the building of the controversial third runway.

Traffic on the busy autobahn networks around the huge airport was thrown into chaos as protesters dragged tree trunks and branches across the tarmac and set them alight. They blocked other roads with cars or their own bodies and police who tried to intervene were pelted with sticks.

Police used water cannon to disperse the demonstrators at one entrance. More cannon were used to scatter another 1,000 who threw petrol bombs, sticks and stones at police on the building site of the runway.

The demonstrators were trying to fulfil a threat to paralyse the airport after the Hesse Land Government ignored their demand to halt work on the runway pending a court decision on the validity of their petition for a referendum.

The authorities maintain that the petition, which has collected 174,000 signatures — more than enough for a referendum — does not meet the requirements laid down in the Land constitution. Patient dies: A 74-year-old woman who had suffered a heart attack died after the ambulance taking her to hospital was caught in a traffic jam at Frankfurt.



Fowl play: President Reagan sets out on a wild turkey hunt on a Texas ranch during a weekend respite from his growing problems. Mr James Baker, his chief of staff, drives the camouflaged party which includes another aide and a secret serviceman wearing the inevitable dark glasses. The White House said that on the only occasion Mr Reagan had a turkey in his sights he had refused to shoot.

Hopes of progress on Namibia

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Nov 15

The United States hopes to receive a formal response before the end of this month from African countries and parties involved in the negotiations over Namibian independence to the proposed constitutional principles drawn up by the five-nation Western "contact group."

The principles, which call for a one-man one-vote election, a multi-party system, separation of powers and a bill of rights, were discussed during a recent visit to Africa by a delegation led by Dr Chester Crocker, the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, told House foreign affairs committee last week: "At long last we see the prospect of real progress. The contact group's immediate objective is to ensure that a start is made on United Nations Resolution 435."

Reagan rejoinder no help

Nato let down by US nuclear dithering

From Frederick Bonnard, Brussels, Nov 15

Bitter disappointment has been expressed at NATO over the lack of coherence in the American administration's different statements on defence strategy.

Contradictory declarations by the Secretaries of State and Defence respectively about Nato plans for a demonstrative use of a nuclear weapon were not set at risk by President Reagan's vague rejoinder.

"We had hoped to have seen the end of the inconsistencies of the Carter Administration," one senior diplomat remarked, "but they are now resurfacing, sowing doubt and confusion. We regret that the internal difficulties of the Administration should surface in this way at a time when NATO is trying to counter the growing protest movement with a consistent and coherent information policy."

Dr Joseph Luns, the Nato Secretary General, pointed out recently that the governments of the member countries are devoted to the cause of peace. Yet they are being opposed by demonstrations in the name of peace. It is therefore now considered essential here to present the true facts clearly.

European diplomats are worried by the present irrational fear of war in West Germany, which they call an unjustified neurosis. They say that the unilateralists and other protesters miss the point of the essentially defensive nature of the alliance.

All the power at its disposal is intended to protect it from aggression: this is the meaning of deterrence. The idea of a demonstrative use of a nuclear weapon to show Nato's resolve in case of an attack by the Warsaw Pact powers is therefore certainly not excluded. The problem is not one of plans, it is one of communication.

Nothing has changed in the Nato doctrine of flexible response, the whole purpose of which is to sow doubt in the mind of the potential aggressor about the type of response which the alliance would give in a crisis. Diplomats cannot simply affirm that a nuclear warning shot is part of the plan; nevertheless it is clear that such a possibility must not only have been planned for, but must also be considered by the Soviet Union to a possible Nato option.

It is impossible, however, for Nato to give definite answers to the subject without giving away the whole of its strategic game: it would remove the element of uncertainty from the opponent's mind and enable him to calculate the risks of an attack in Europe — the very thing which the strategy of flexible response is designed to prevent.

Finally, diplomats here are very much aware of the need to give a clear message when Nato defence and foreign ministers meet in Brussels in early December.

BRANIFF ANNOUNCE NEW LOW FARES TO TEXAS AND THE AMERICAN SOUTH WEST.

French left-wing alliance shows first cracks

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Nov 16

The budget discussion and especially the watering down of the wealth tax and the decision to raise contributions to meet the huge social security deficits have caused the first cracks in the facade of solidarity between French Communists and Socialists achieved last June in the flush of victory at the polls.

Small taxes for big fortunes was the significant comment of the Communist organ *L'Humanité* after the vote on new taxes, which led Communist deputies to protest against the increases in tobacco, spirits, petrol and other consumer items. "The wage earners cough up and inflation takes a knock," it proclaimed again last week.

These cracks coincide with virulent attacks by M Andre Bergeron, the Secretary-General of the moderate trade union organization Force Ouvriere on the infiltration by the Communists of those sectors of the administration for which their four ministers are responsible; transport, health, the civil service department and professional training. His organization in a few weeks time will produce a document giving details of this Communist infiltration.

His broadside coincided with the appointment as General Director of Health in the Health Ministry of a prominent member of the Communist central committee, Dr Jacques Rouss. It followed, by some weeks, the appointment of another Communist as head of Paris transport.

Meanwhile, the Communist ministers continue to behave as model pupils of the government class and to be irreproachable — in public at least — on the point of joint Government responsibility. They keep on proclaiming that they are in the Government to stay.

But the Socialist Party is aware that its allies are playing a double game. This consists of sharing the credit for far-reaching and on the whole popular moves like nationalization and decentralization, workers' rights and increases in low wages and social benefits; and keeping their distance from unpopular ones, like tax or social security measures.

For the time being, the Socialists choose to play down these differences, on the grounds that they do not impinge on Government solidarity. M Louis Mermaz, the President of the National Assembly, stated categorically that Communist criticism of government decisions did not imply a "breakdown of the Union of the Left."

It is too soon therefore, as some Opposition newspapers are inclined to do already, to talk of a rift in the left. The Communist Party knows it and cannot afford to indulge in anything more than pin-pricks so long as the President and Prime Minister continue to enjoy exceptionally high popularity ratings, if somewhat reduced in the latest polls, even among the Communists' own supporters.

Africa has a new state

Abidjan, Nov 15. — President Sir Dawda Jawara of Gambia formally placed this tiny country under Senegal's umbrella last night, less than four months after Senegalese troops helped him to foil a coup attempt.

An official announcement by State House in Banjul said Senegal and Gambia had decided to form a confeder-

ation. The newly-formed state of Senegambia will be headed by Sir Dawda Jawara, according to observers, will be the senior partner.

The population of Gambia is 570,000, one tenth that of Senegal. Gambia has a 750-man police force and a 350-strong field force. Senegal has 5,500 troops, Reuter.

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Nuclear weapons in Europe: the realities behind the talking

In two weeks US and Soviet officials begin their first full post-war talks on the future of nuclear weapons in Europe. Against a background of intensifying anti-nuclear protest, particularly in West Germany, the United States is putting the finishing touches to a dramatic offer to withdraw plans to deploy new Pershing and Cruise missiles in Europe — if the Soviets will make the equivalent response. John Barry reveals the details of the so-called "zero option" and examines its implications.

Zero gambit: the risk for the West

When Paul Nitze sits down opposite the Soviet team in Geneva at the end of this month to begin the long-awaited talks to limit nuclear weapons in Europe, he will have in his folder the most sweeping possible Western proposal. As head of the American delegation, Nitze will have the authority, when he judges the moment right, to propose the "zero option". If the Russians will dismantle all relevant missiles on their side, NATO will offer to abandon its own plans to deploy Pershing Two and Tomahawk cruise missiles. "Soviet propaganda has played on the peace movement throughout this affair," one of those privy to the plan explained. "Now the United States is going to say: 'OK, deliver'."

Details of the Western proposal have still to get final clearance within the Alliance. But the shape of the package is firm and is given below. Those responsible for the proposal — a small band who have weathered two years of uproar in Europe over NATO's 1979 decision to deploy Pershing and cruise missiles — exude a pardonable smugness, akin to that of a father who sees some particularly ill-favoured offspring finally make it to the altar. The plan is, after all, bold. It is everything the peace groups have been calling for. It will surely capture the imagination of the young. It puts the ball firmly into the Soviet court.

A more sober assessment would caution that, while the "zero option" is probably politically unavoidable, the West's real problems may be only beginning. As one British analyst put it: "What would we do if Brezhnev said yes?"

The draft negotiating brief was agreed at a discreet meeting of the "Special Consultative Group" (SCG) in NATO headquarters in Brussels at the end of last month. The group, set up in 1978 to oversee the arms control aspects of NATO's nuclear plans, is chaired by the United States Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, Lawrence Eagleburger. His presence in Europe for the meeting was disguised with talk of attending "private seminars" and the razzamatazz surrounding the meeting of NATO defence ministers at Gleneagles in Scotland served also to distract attention from the more critical gathering in Brussels.

Even after Brussels, however, differences remain on details of the package. To

resolve these, the SCG is to meet again only a few days before the negotiations open. Meanwhile, in Washington, the United States Administration has itself finally to approve the package. This will be done at a meeting within the National Security Council over the next week or so. "Slightly to our own surprise," one of the American team said, "we seem to be on track."

But where does the track lead? It is arguable that in putting forward the "zero option" NATO is storing up for itself two sets of problems, one political and the other doctrinal.

The political problem lies in the exaggerated European hopes for the negotiations, especially their timetable. More than a year ago, West German officials were saying privately in Washington that their government needed results from the talks within a year of their starting — and the pressures on Chancellor Schmidt have increased since then.

An indication of those pressures came at that Gleneagles meeting of ministers in NATO's Nuclear Planning Group. The negotiating package was not on the group's agenda: indeed preparation of the package is nothing to do with the group. But the Germans and Belgians insisted on raising the "zero option" and a rambling discussion ensued. Several other delegates were irked by this, assuming that the Germans were merely preparing the ground for some public self-congratulation when the package is unwrapped.

The play is understandable, though, because expectations of results inside a year look wholly unrealistic. Even with goodwill on both sides, the issues are so complex that talks could take years.

In fact, there is no reason to suppose goodwill. Beneath the rhetoric, there is little evidence that the Russians have ever taken seriously the idea of theatre nuclear limitations. They now appear content with the new missiles they have. First indications are that the Soviet negotiating stance at Geneva will be that a nuclear balance exists in Europe and should be frozen at present levels with their SS-20 in place but without NATO's Pershing Two and Tomahawk.

Of course, Pershing and Tomahawk worry Moscow, and the Russians may eventually be prepared to pay a price to buy them off. But they will scarcely contemplate paying that until they are certain they cannot block the deployment.



Our map which is based upon unclassified information from the International Institute for Strategic Studies, the Ministry of Defence and other sources, shows the approximate location of weapon systems which would or could be used to carry nuclear warheads if peace broke down in Europe.

They range from the obsolescent Vulcan bomber, shortly to be phased out of service with the RAF, to modern machines like the Soviet supersonic Backfire which came into

service in 1974 — to the consternation of the Western alliance.

Most of the aircraft might be described as "nuclear capable" systems which could carry nuclear free-fall bombs, but would also play a prominent part as conventional weapons.

Artillery similarly includes short-range shells fired by self-propelled guns and the SS-20, the mobile, land-based Soviet missile whose three independent warheads could threaten Western Europe from firing positions in the West or East of the Urals.

Some of the equipment cannot be easily

placed in the complicated hierarchy of nuclear weapons. Submarine missiles on both sides are more properly identified as strategic systems and the Poseidon, while operating out of the European theatre are officially counted in the Soviet-American strategic arms limitation treaties (Salt). The Americans also tried unsuccessfully to have Backfire counted as a strategic weapon because it could reach the United States if refuelled in mid-flight.

The French systems are particularly difficult to place because France has

withdrawn her military commitment to NATO, although successive presidents have said that France would fight alongside the Western allies if war broke out.

The shorter-range weapons like the field artillery and smaller missiles are sometimes described as tactical or battlefield weapons, the others as theatre systems — either medium-range or long-range. It is the long-range systems on which attention will be focused during the Geneva talks.

Henry Stanhope

What 'zero' means

The straight trade: Pershings for SS missiles

"Zero" on NATO's side means no Pershing Two, no long-range cruise missiles and, almost certainly, no "Pershing One" sub-cruise range missile deployed in West Germany. "Zero" for the Russians means, in their long-range arsenal, none of the old SS-4s and SS-5s and none of the new SS-20s. It also means none of their medium-range weapons now targeted on Europe: the old SS-12 and its new replacement the SS-22. The West will also press the Russians for severe restrictions on the newest of all their missiles, the short-range (2000-mile) SS-23.

There are shadings of view inside NATO on the scope of the list. The position given above is the American line. The British would tend to concentrate upon a straight trade between the long-range systems — SS-4, 5 and 20 against Pershing Two and Tomahawk — leaving the shorter-range systems until later.

This was NATO's consensus at the time of the December 1979 decision to deploy the new systems. But the Reagan Administration points out two unworkable possibilities.

One is that the Russians, it now seems almost certain, will reject a straight "zero" trade of long-range systems. So the West might as well seize the initiative in broadening the talks from the start. The nastier possibility is that the Russians might accept some limitations on SS-20s (though not their extinction) as the price of getting rid of NATO's Pershing Two and Tomahawk, but then go a long way to filling the gap with new SS-22s and SS-23s while contriving not to reach agreement on those systems. NATO has no equivalent to the SS-22 or SS-23 any more than it can match the SS-20. In that pass, Washington foresees — and is determined to avoid — a dreary repetition of the last four wrenching years as NATO once again struggles to find a response.

At Geneva, the compromise Western position will probably be that NATO will propose the more expansive package, but will insist that the elements in it, while linked, starting with the systems which back sides profess to find most alarming: the long-range missiles.

Whatever ceilings upon missile numbers are finally agreed must be equal for each side and global in application. Early work by American analysts had suggested it might be necessary for the

West to offer global ceilings with regional sub-ceilings. NATO deployments in Europe would be held under a "European sub-ceiling" which would also apply to Soviet missiles aimed at Europe. But under a marginally higher "global ceiling", the Russians would have freedom to deploy a few SS-20s against China (and against the West) within the margin between the two ceilings as also seen as a way of "compensating" the Soviet Union for the British and French independent systems, which are not included in the talks.

This approach has now been abandoned on the grounds that the Russians do not need a mobile, highly accurate system such as the SS-20 against China or to concentrate upon a straight trade between the long-range systems — SS-4, 5 and 20 against Pershing Two and Tomahawk — leaving the shorter-range systems until later.

The unit of counting for missiles will be warheads. The whole point of new MIRVed warheads is that they can strike several targets simultaneously. Thus the SS-20, with three warheads, will count as three systems. There are hints, however, that in the fine print the West may propose more lenient counting rules to cover the ageing and less-threatening SS-4s and SS-5s, with corresponding rules governing the ratio in which the Russians might, if they chose, replace them with SS-20s.

The Western position on aircraft still seems open to debate. Among those preparing the negotiating brief, the majority view has consistently been that limitations upon aircraft pose such ferocious technical problems that, if the talks are to have any hope of reasonably swift progress, aircraft should be considered only after relatively easier topics, such as long-range missiles, have been dealt with.

To give a flavour of those problems: how do you define "comparable" aircraft? By mission? By range? Either criterion poses acute analytical problems. Worse still, how do you cope with dual-capable aircraft — aircraft with important conventional roles in the opening phase of any conflict and then, in extremes, having nuclear missions as well? Get the answer to that wrong, and you could be limiting what are also your conventional defences, actu-

ally lower the nuclear threshold in Europe.

Despite these problems, the Reagan Administration is apparently shifting to the view that some aircraft should be considered early in the negotiations. In part, this is once more an acknowledgement that once the talks get serious the Russians will press for the inclusion of aircraft. So the West might as well take the initiative.

If that view prevails, the West's proposals will again be a "slice by slice" one, the first slice being the long-range bombers with clear deep-strike nuclear missions. This means Backfire, Blinder and Badger on the Soviet side, against the FB-111 in the West.

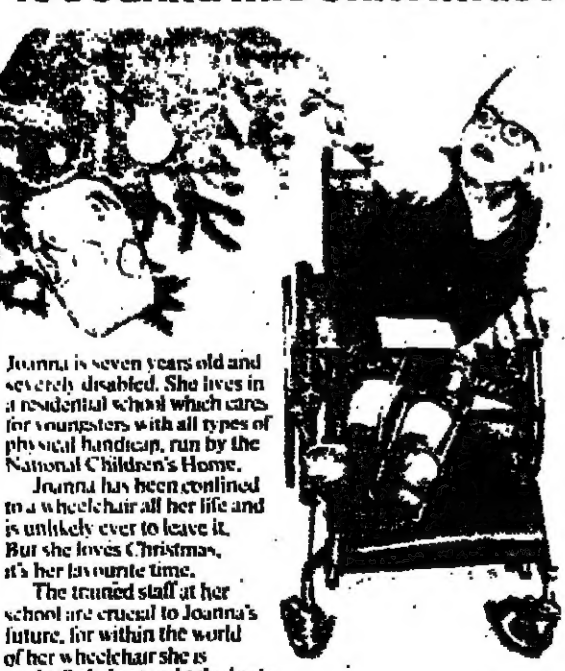
Even that "slice" would plunge both sides into the problems inherent in efforts to limit aircraft. About half the Soviet Backfire bombers, roughly the same fraction of their ageing Badger, plus useful numbers of the intermediate Blinder, are allocated to their Naval Air Force. Under normal circumstances, they are not tasked against NATO land targets. But they could be.

Meanwhile, NATO faces its own problems. About half the inclusion of the FB-111 there can be no quibble. Its mission is to carry nuclear weapons deep into the Soviet Union. The fact that, in peacetime, it is based in the United States is irrelevant if the West wants global ceilings. NATO's problems start with the FB-111 based in Britain. In the first days of any conflict, its role would be to launch conventional munitions against military targets in eastern Europe.

Yet the FB-111, certainly, has the range to hit the Soviet Union and, by analogy with the Backfire, it has to be classed according to what it could do. By the criterion of mission, on the other hand, it is based in the United States. It is irrelevant if the West wants global ceilings. NATO's problems start with the FB-111 based in Britain. In the first days of any conflict, its role would be to launch conventional munitions against military targets in eastern Europe.

Whatever the bargain, the West will demand strict verification of it. This is likely to be a task far harder than the counting of ICBMs in Salt, and will probably need "intrusive means", which is to say, on-the-spot inspections. If the Soviet Union objects to that, as it surely will, the West will argue that this is yet another justification for the "zero option".

Will you reach out to Joanna this Christmas?



Joanna is seven years old and severely disabled. She lives in a residential school which cares for youngsters with all types of physical handicap, run by the National Children's Home.

Joanna has been confined to a wheelchair all her life and is unlikely ever to leave it. But she loves Christmas, it's her favourite time.

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Speaker of the House of Commons

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The view from Moscow

Pessimism about results

The Soviet Union laid out its negotiating position on medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe more than two years ago, when President Brezhnev declared in East Berlin in October 1979 that the Russians would be ready to withdraw some of their missiles from western parts of Russia if NATO halted its plans to deploy Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Europe.

Since that speech the political climate, East-West relations and the relative military strengths of both sides have changed, but the Soviet negotiating position remains essentially the same.

The Russians have called for a start to talks with increasing urgency since the Reagan Administration took office. For Moscow, time is now of the essence: the rearmament programme, the American decision to develop the neutron bomb, the refusal to ratify the Salt-2 agreement, talk in Washington of reestablishing American military superiority and the unhurried pace with which the Americans approached the Geneva talks are all seen here as a sign that the military situation will soon rapidly worsen for the Russians.

The Russians will certainly not allow any linkage between

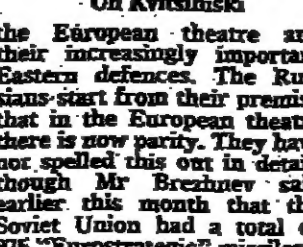
a long time: the Vienna talks on troop cuts in Central Europe have, after all, been deadlocked for almost eight years because of an East-West dispute over the size of the Warsaw Pact forces.

But the Russians do appear to want some agreement to emerge, if only because they hope this may lead on to wider Salt-3 agreement that would incorporate much of the still unratified Salt-2. The stumbling block will probably be verification. Traditionally the Russians have been extremely suspect of on-the-spot inspection by Western military observers, which they regard as tantamount to licensed spying.

The Russians know that the Geneva talks are their last opportunity of preventing the deployment of new missiles, and they have no illusion that the West will allow a freeze that would make it possible for the Soviet Union to spin out talks indefinitely. For the Russians the talks are a matter of good faith from the West. But the mood is pessimistic. It took seven years to negotiate Salt-2 to no apparent result. Moscow is still sceptical that Washington wants any result for the coming round of negotiations.

Michael Binyon

Chief Soviet negotiator Uli Kvitsinski



THE ARTS

Theatre

Citizen Iyushin

Tricycle

If Shostakovich's *Testimony* is to be trusted, the saddest of Soviet musicians could survive the postwar years of the anti-formalist purge by informing on his fellow-artists.

At first sight, Kevin Mandry's play seemed to be a study of one such composer who put his art before his human responsibilities, but still wound up on Zhdanov's blacklist. Alexander Iyushin, when we first meet him is a high-ranking people's artist, with a snug job at the Leningrad Conservatoire, a body of officially sanctioned works, and an understandable reluctance to endanger these benefits on behalf of a colleague who has just been deemed an unpatriotic. We see him writhing withholding his signature from a petition and being denounced by his secret friend Yuri as a man who has "lost the battle for his own life and now cares nothing for anybody else."

As it turns out, this is the final verdict the play pronounces of Iyushin, who emerges much more as a private case history than as an instance of moral response to political stress.

Having presented his negative side, the play presents its

positive counterpart by backtracking a few years and showing him resisting his wife's piously appeal to inform on the dissident Yuri.

It is not even as though he has the defence of lying exclusively inside music. Once his job goes he loses all desire to compose, and bids farewell to his art with no more regret than he reads his wife's goodbye letter. All he wants is to sit in the sun and escape the burden of human contact, which raises the question of why he deserves a play.

Mr Mandry supplies no good answer to that; nor does he compensate with any background insights to the politics of Soviet music.

Roland Rees's Poco Novo production is extremely well-cast, but the parts at the margin of the action make more sense than those at its centre. Jennie Stoller has one magnificent outburst of generous anger against her chatterbox husband, and Forgiene (Yuri) pursues him with a resistible blend of right-thinking fanaticism, but all they can do is preside over the slow self-immolation of a man who, even in his days of glory, can only plead the artistic Fifth Amendment. Richard Kane traces his decline with precision.

Irving Wardle

Marriage à la Mode

Citizens', Glasgow

It is at occasions such as the performance of *Marriage à la Mode* that I wish the Glasgow Citizens' Company would leave the Gorbals and take up residence in London at the Old Vic. There are ample arguments for their devotion to Scotland, but no British company matches their visionary skills in the reclamation of a classic repertory.

Not quite every word within the production was provided by John Dryden, and where he had introduced the tragic sub-plot, Giles Haverall has substituted an abbreviated performance of Dryden's great Antony and Cleopatra play, *All for Love*. The formal tragedy of the play within the play is carefully matched in the substitution of a Roman mirror image of the adroit sexual farce of *Marriage à la Mode*.

Such frankly ribald comedy as that plot holds is made emphatic against the even more artificial traditions of Restoration tragedy. Artifice and high theatricality are always obvious strengths at Citizens', and such command of two styles within a production is rare.

Whether the comedy is made as broad as French farce, which it sometimes is,

or refined to more delicate winks and innuendoes, it is always delivered in a modern fashion.

Much of the ingenuity is naturally Dryden's, yet Mr Haverall's decision to contrast the characters of the comedy to the Antony and Cleopatra story has its own special pleasures. Where two young cavaliers have set out to seduce each other's wives (or the intended wife in one instance), in the comedy, it is a matter of women in reverse conflict in the tragedy.

When the wife, Doralice (Julia Blalock), suspects her husband's flirtation with Melantha (Sian Thomas), it adds to the interest and intrigue to see her immediately take the role of Cleopatra and verbally lash Miss Thomas, who has stepped into the role of Antony's wife.

Those two actresses give splendid performances, and Miss Thomas particularly finds a laudably high-comed foolishness for her character. As usual at the Citizens', the design is a remarkable visual restatement of the play and the director's intention. Philip Prowse has left it as a half-finished back-stage arena with a raised platform decorated by a single large painting and evocative costumes suggesting a Restoration of the imagination.

Ned Chaillet

Orange Tree Theatre

When James Saunders last delivered a new evening play to Richmond's Orange Tree Theatre, it meandered off to the Hampstead Theatre, and then settled down in the West End for a year. That play was *Bodies*, and like his new play, *Fall*, it was commissioned by the Orange Tree. *Fall* seems to me unlikely to follow that path, for its theatrical qualities are more introspective, and while much of the play is direct in its concern with the characters, Mr Saunders keeps it at a critical distance by providing a narrator who gives biographies, and generally explains things.

Without the narrator, the only man in the company, the play might better survive on its own naturalism. Mr Saunders is writing with a classically simple feel for drama, and the such a dying off stage, his family assembles to confront the fact of his death.

In the autumn garden on an unexpectedly sunny day, the women drink wine, wander off and pick grapes or briefly tend to the father. Mostly, however, they talk or bait each other, revealing an obsession with coping. As the wine and the talk both progress, it becomes obvious that only the mother is coping at all.

The drama eventually boils down to a fearful reconciliation between two of the sisters: a pregnant girl of 18, and an older sister, frustrated in marriage, and cynical about her vocation as a radical psychotherapist. Still, Mr Saunders brings on the other two, the mother and the counter cultural feminist who has been "making her own space" in Germany, and mixes a stew of emotions and concerns.

Except for Mary Atkinson's adorable character, the mother, a character somewhat contented with her life, the women all live in fear, looking over their shoulders for the shadow of a nuclear holocaust.

Ned Chaillet

Rock

Cecil Taylor Unit

Round House

After a brilliantly distilled introduction by Taylor and his drummer, Rashid Bakr, in which glowing piano chords were picked up and gently shunted into position by rustling drums and cymbals, the storm gathered. William Parker's bass thrummed briefly, then accelerated to a relentless hustle behind the alto saxophone of Jimmy Lyons, who stated an asymmetrical theme before pushing himself into a long, fast improvisation, teased and chased by Taylor's hyperactive counterpoint.

Within five minutes the tension had been raised to an almost unbearable degree, and there it stayed for the succeeding hour and a half of continuous performance, in which Taylor and Lyons alternated solos broken only by a series of brief themes almost indistinguishable from the variations they incited.

Parker and Bakr, the new boys, did a remarkable job of keeping up with Taylor and Lyons, whose 20-year partnership has resulted in a kind of musical telepathy. Apart from a couple of extraordinary arpeggios, Parker concentrated on supplying rhythmic impetus, deliberate-

ly limiting the melodic content if his fingers favour a deep throbbing pulse. Bakr brought logic and continuity to this seemingly metemorphic music, his neat movement around the kit drawing out a remarkable range of detail which even included occasional contrasting bursts of bebop 4/4 cymbal figures placed across the general flow.

The leader's playing changes little over the years, the feline pounces with cocked wrists set against played across-the-board runs and flat-palm smashes. The resulting torrent of rhythmic variations is too much to absorb; the best plan is simply to pay attention to the overall architecture and to note how, even at the peaks of intensity, the typical voicings and sprung rhythms remain intact. He closed the 10-minute encore with a snatch of romantic, exquisite-phrase melody unlike anything else on the night.

Lyons, on the other hand, shows obvious growth. His second solo depended largely on surprising tonal distortions which broke the customary classical severity of his delivery, and in a couple of broad passages he unveiled a drone tone which sounded like a cluster of violas.

Richard Williams

The man behind the masterpieces



Dr Levey: custodian of a priceless collection

If there is one theme which re-echoes subtly through everything Sir Michael Levey has to say about the National Gallery and its role in today's world, it would have to be E. M. Forster's "only connect". It has been at the National Gallery all his working life, having come there more or less by chance (he was helping a girl-friend fill in an application form for a job as assistant keeper just after he came down from Oxford, decided to apply too and to his total amazement got in), and has worked his way up through the ranks, but seems to have remained remarkably unaffected by Civil Service habits of mind.

His rule since he took charge has been, whether one likes it or not, an astonishingly pragmatic approach enabling him and the gallery to try out all sorts of ideas without being vowed either to conservatism or to advanced thinking: all that finally matters is whether it works, whether it does what he wants it to do and thinks it right for a National Gallery to attempt.

What is the first problem? "Quite simply, getting people in. Most people have this image of the National Gallery as a monument. You visit it, like Westminster Abbey or the Tower of London, and that's it; it has been ticked off on your list of London sights, and it is not going to change very much while your back is turned. Of course, there is some truth in that, but not enough. We have to be living, growing organisms, or else we atrophy; we have to keep expanding (though not so dramatically as many other public collections), and we have to keep our responses fresh to the changing needs of changing times. But I think it is also important that we should find ways of bringing people in which do not do it under false pretences. Gimmickry is no good."

"I know some people have thought that our recent scheme of having an artist in residence was a gimmick: what did an artist like Maggi Hambling or John Lock or McFadyen have to do with the Old Masters who are hanging, revered in principle and quite dead, on the walls? That of course is precisely the point. I think we have to be constantly reminding people that even the 'great' painters were human, too. They had their problems with family and patrons, they had deadlines to meet, they were seldom if ever able to work in conditions of ivory-tower tranquility."

"Since Roger Fry it has not been fashionable to think that we should take any serious interest in artists' lives as well

as their art. Consequently I feel that nowadays art history has moved much too far in the wrong direction. Of course, we should not be interested in the paintings of van Gogh just because he went mad and cut off his ear, but on the other hand it may be quite important to our appreciation of the paintings to know that they were the work of a man to whom such things could happen. And if having young, living artists around the place, working and talking to anyone interested about how and why they work, can make the vital human connexion clearer, then I believe it is doing something very important."

I had noticed that the National Gallery does not generally seem to be in the market for the big international blockbuster shows which are apparently the main way of attracting multitudes these days, especially for American museums. Was that a deliberate policy decision?

"Oh yes," he said, "I really do not see the point of having such shows here. For one thing, on the most elementary level I do not think they succeed in bringing more people into the museum as a whole; they are regarded as could just as well be anywhere else. I think that special exhibitions have an important role to play, but mainly by, in some way illuminating the collection, providing a new context for

works which are maybe otherwise hopelessly blurred by over-familiarity. The show of Venetian Baroque painting, for instance, enabled us to dig out a number of hitherto disregarded bits and pieces, and make it graphically clear exactly why they were in the collection at all. I hope that the effect was equivalent to removing lots of old discoloured varnish from a painting and letting people see it for the first time in a new light."

"The same with the current show of Spanish paintings: I thought it was oddly uncommensurate of some commentators to complain that it contains a number of the collection's own pictures, just moved around a bit. That was really an important reason for having the exhibition; naturally everyone knows the Rokeby Venus, but when you see it in the context of a lot of less familiar Velasquez of radically different types, with any luck you will feel that in some way you are seeing it for the first time. Responses are sharpened, and nothing looks quite the same."

Had Sir Michael any cherished projects? "Well, I've always wanted to have a show which would be simply of pictures without labels. A few famous paintings by famous painters, a lot of less-familiar ones, and a very good deal overlooked, and some fished up from the reserve collection downstairs, cleaned, restored

and shown in the best possible light. I suppose one would have to play the game and have the 'right answers' printed upside down on the last page of the catalogue, or something of the sort. But at least it should help to 'unblinker' visitors if they are not able to tool their reactions according to what they read on the label. If they fall in love with a painting by no-one they ever heard of, so much the better. And if they say 'That's terrible!' before they can censor themselves and think it can't be because it's by Rembrandt, so much the better too. I love people to react, to have strong opinions, to feel that art matters. Down with the velvet curtains and let in the daylight! Figuratively, of course, or my conservation department will be after me!"

How about criticisms that the gallery under his rule had been unduly prodigal with public funds in going after some of the works it had recently acquired at high prices? "Ah, now that's something I am totally unrepentant about," Sir Michael said. "To begin with, the prices are seldom as high as rumour puts them. But even if they were, great works of art are still incredibly cheap. Just the excess in the defence budget could build this place ten times over. And think how many millions it costs to develop a new car design or make even a very modestly

John Russell Taylor

Dance

Romeo and Juliet

Covent Garden

The news that the Scottish Ballet plans to stage John Cranko's version of *Romeo and Juliet* next March adds interest to Kenneth MacMillan's Royal Ballet production, which in 15 years has never been taken to Scotland but has much in common with the earlier Cranko version besides Prokofiev's music. The revival at Covent Garden last night again revealed the chief virtues of MacMillan's choreography as embodied in Merle Park and David Wall dancing the title roles.

Their balcony scene on this occasion had a touching purity and rapture on her part to contrast with his vehemence, which enhanced the moments of visual beauty in their pas de deux, though the later bedroom duet looked more perfunctory in its expressive character, as if Romeo were rather more anxious to be gone than he wanted to appear.

However, it was later in this scene that Miss Park, having sought fruitless means of

escape from her father's will by hiding under the bedclothes and dashing to the door, showed us a young girl suddenly growing up in the moment of her greatest loneliness as she sees herself abandoned by everybody dear to her. Her poetic intensity then carried over its tragic eloquence to the final scene in the tomb.

Among the rest of the cast Michael Coleman repeated his familiar Mercutio, sprightly and engaging in its wit and pointedness, not least in his taunting of Tybalt, whose role David Drew has made more of his own in its arrogance and defiance. Ealing was a buoyant Benvolio, and the mandolin dance in the street wedding was admirably led by Stephen Beagley.

Though a disproportionate amount of such and such apparently revolves around the same three harlots in the outdoor scenes, they were given a suitably flamboyant character by Rosalind Eyre, Rosemary Taylor and Jacquin Tallis, while Ashley Lawrence's conducting kept the tempo brisk enough from the outset.

Noël Goodwin

Mountain festival

A British festival, led by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, has just opened in this Allegheny steel town with speeches from the British ambassador and Mr H. J. Heinz II, the orchestra's benefactor, and with a small but vocal demonstration by the Irish. It rained on the Irish.

The first orchestral programme contained music by Vaughan Williams, Walton and Tippett. An exhibition of British naïf painting has opened at the Carnegie-Mellon University and on graphics and constructions by Joe Tilson at a downtown gallery. In addition local dramatic and operatic societies are presenting works by Gilbert and Sullivan, Pinter and Goldsmith.

Mostly, however, it will be British music that dominates the festival. The orchestra is

kin, went to London to sell the idea to the council. The council offered a grant of \$65,000, and Mr Turkist set about raising additional cash from British corporations and Heinz II, the orchestra's benefactor, and with a small but vocal demonstration by the Irish. It rained on the Irish.

The first concert was well enough received. Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* got the occasion off to a solemn start and was followed by a ravishingly languorous interpretation of Walton's *Violin Concerto* by Kyung-Wha Chung, producing an appropriately warm Mediterranean tone. But Tippett's *Triple Concerto*, for violin, viola and cello, written last year, and with the orchestra's three principals as soloists, got a very cool response from the audience.

The new British music on display is to include Oliver Knussen's third symphony. "Knussen will make Tippett sound like Ivor Novello," threatened Mr Previn. The other composers will include Elgar, Britten and McCabe. The orchestra will then take its programme to Carnegie Hall, New York, and to the Kennedy Centre, Washington.

Michael Hamlyn

Interview

Television

Waiving the Rules

The Judges Rules are meant to guide the police in their questioning of suspects. The trouble with them is that they are not mandatory and, if they are not heeded, this is not a deficiency at law. The murder of Maxwell Confait, a homosexual transvestite prostitute in Catford in 1972, led to confessions by three boys aged 15, 18, and 14.

The confessions, which lacked corroboration, constituted the principal case against them and altogether it was a blatant miscarriage of justice.

The first was found guilty of murder and sent to prison indefinitely, the second, who was sub-normal, was found guilty of manslaughter and sent to Rampton Hospital, and the third convicted of arson and sent to an approved school for four years.

All were innocent but it was three and a half years before they were released, largely because of a campaign by the Labour MP Christopher Price, and it was only last year that their innocence was established and due compensation paid.

This was the background to William Humble's *Rules of Justice*, directed by Roger Tucker, on BBC2 on Saturday night. It was a most effective dramatization and an eloquent plea for something to be done about the way interrogations are conducted. Recommendations to amend the Judges' Rules have been made by a parliamentary inquiry, but so far nothing has been done.

There were some strong performances in Humble's play, that of the sub-normal boy, played by Tony London, his father and mother, Percy Herbert and June Brown, and the 15-year-old, Steve Fletcher.

The effectiveness of this dramatic argument was somewhat diminished by the half-hour discussion which followed, *Judges Rules OK*, and *Out of Court*, production conducted by Nick Ross. He started out well but rather lost his way among the panel, which tends to be the way of things when you have five experts trying to get complicated legal arguments across in 30 minutes. It seems a worthy subject for a more intensive programme.

On Sunday we saw the first part of *The Roman Trail* on BBC2. It will be concluded tomorrow night. Produced by Jeremy Marre, this programme, tracing the origins and story of the gypsies, was fascinating, colourful and revealing.

The story began in India, moved to Egypt, North Africa, Spain and France, with lots of music, flamenco dancing and an exposition of the gypsy view vis-à-vis society at large by a Spanish Irish gypsy, Miguel Haggarty.

This was another remarkable programme in a remarkable series, *World About Us*, and tomorrow night we will be able to follow the story in the rest of Europe. It shouldn't be missed.

Jonathan Raban is a wanderer of a different kind, a travel writer whose most recent book, *Old Glory*, was apparently ecologically received in America but more cautiously here. It describes a four-month voyage in an open boat down 2,000 miles of the Mississippi in 1979.

The *South Bank Show* on ITV showed a film-essay, directed by Tony Cash, on a part of the journey through the mid-West with Mr Raban starring, narrating and giving his views about what travel books should be — that is a mélange of fact and fiction with the strength of an autobiographical novel.

Dennis Hackett

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Concerts

Marisa Robles

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Friday night's concert was advertised as being given by "Marisa Robles & Friends" but it turned out to be a very mixed bag. Miss Robles in the event played two harp solos, *La Source* by Hasselmann and Guiridi's *Viejo Zorico*. Though charmingly performed, these pretend to be nothing beyond the most rapid kind of salon music. Yet their warmth, melodiousness and innocent elaborations were welcome in the circumstances.

They had been preceded by what seemed a very long suite (nine movements) by Benjamin Britten, his third and last, being an unaccompanied cello. This is indeed, rather different from numbers 1 & 2 in the series, being mainly slow, quiet and austere. It is, however, of some structural interest, being based on Russian folk melodies which emerge only at the end. Colin Carr's was a fine performance.

larger body, a group the size of the English Chamber Orchestra has distinct advantages for a work such as his *Introduction and Allegro*. For one thing it leads to greater clarity in the contrapuntal passages, and for another the contrasts between the solo string quartet and the main ensemble are never exaggerated. Certainly these points were underlined in the very fine performance which Geoffrey Simon obtained from the ECO on Saturday evening. An Australian conductor hitherto unknown to me, his reading was properly dramatic and thrilling.

At first it seemed as if these qualities were going to be in excess in Mozart's Clarinet Concerto. The first movement started as if the music suggested that this music's undertow of extreme sadness would be passed over. Matters soon righted themselves, however, and the soloist, Michael Collins, gave a remarkably confident performance for a 19-year-old.

In due course he will produce a greater variety of tone colour, but he already has achieved the basis for an interpretation in the highest class. There was some particularly beautiful quiet playing in the slow movement, where the orchestral support was especially sympathetic.

Finally, came a splendid account of Tchaikovsky's *Serenade Op 48*, a piece as well designed as the Elgar to display the strength of the ECO strings. Besides the more obvious qualities of tone colour, a most refined control of dynamics was apparent here.

Max Harrison

New London Chamber Choir/Wood

St John's

It was perhaps unfair to the later composer that on Friday we heard one of Josquin's maturest works, the *Missa Pange Lingua*, dating from the second decade of the sixteenth century, beside Messiaen's relatively early *Trois Petites Liturgies*, written in post-occupied Paris in 1944. Both pieces share a broad Christian theme; two more different works, though, could hardly be imagined.

Josquin's mass setting is a stark four-part texture, one stark four-part texture, one of the time-honoured texts of the Roman rite with unusually rigorous technical

Max Harrison

ECO/Simon

St John's, Smith Square

Though Elgar undoubtedly calculated for a considerably

London debut

A victim of traffic jams on a soaking night, Amanda Thane, marooned out at Leighton House in west London, sang to a far more empty seats than full ones. Undaunted, this young Australian soprano showed musically feeling for style and character as well as producing a warm and fluid flow of tone in Strauss, Schumann, Duparc, Rodrigo and Bernstein.

Apparently more at ease in French than German, she was particularly winning in Duparc, the voice ranging from a finely spun siltiness to opulent climaxes indicating an operatic potential that she confirmed most movingly in her encore, Debussy's "Air de Lili".

Joan Chissell

After this, who can believe the political claims of the IRA?

If anyone needed convincing evidence that the withdrawal of British troops from Ulster would be likely to precipitate a bloody sectarian civil war, the crimes of the past week — culminating in the murder of Rev Robert Bradford, MP and Mr Kenneth Campbell, a school caretaker, in front of a terrified group of children — certainly provided it.

There has been speculation that the Provisional IRA has changed to a more politicized strategy to provoke the Loyalist community into counter-terrorism and civil war. This may well be the hope of some IRA men. It is unlikely that it is the single or even overriding motivation of the IRA's small murder gangs. What they all do have in common is a consuming sectarian hatred and desire to wreak bloody vengeance on representatives of the forces of law and order (which they see as major obstacles to their aims) and a blind belief that if they go on shooting and bombing for long enough they will drive Britain into abandoning Northern Ireland, thus crowning the one million Ulster Protestants into submitting to an all-Ireland IRA dictatorship, or driving them out.

It is vital to see the absurd unreality of the IRA's declared aims. It is not to understand how completely they reject the whole tradition of democratic politics, north and south. The IRA, which has never succeeded in gaining even a small group in Parliament either at Dublin or at Westminster, arrogantly dismisses the Parliamentary government of the Republic and the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland as "imperialist oppressors". Though they seek to hide their anti-democratic Marxist face from the American public, they are really dedicated to imposing a neo-Marxist system on the whole of Ireland and closely collaborate with foreign terrorist organizations and Soviet proxies, on which they depend for training and propaganda support.

Some hoped that their election efforts during the B-block hunger strike campaign meant that they were going in for politics. In reality they



The body of Rev Robert Bradford, MP, is taken away after his assassination by IRA gunmen on Saturday.

never abandoned terrorism as a primary weapon. The IRA cynically exploited the hunger strike campaign to gain propaganda and cash from United States support groups and used this period to regroup for fresh terrorism.

The Dublin government, aware of the serious threat to their own security posed by the IRA, realize as clearly as the British Government that there can be no question of negotiating with the IRA. It is essential that both governments draw the appropriate lessons from recent tragic events.

First, there will be no complete peace in Ireland until terrorism is subdued. Of course, violence can never be entirely eradicated in a democratic society and it is quite possible that the terrorist traditions of both Republican and Loyalist extremists will survive for another century at least. Nevertheless, terrorism could be so reduced as to no longer constitute a threat to the innocent and to the survival of democracy and the rule of law.

Secondly, the only way that democracy can deal with this prolonged terrorism without sacrificing the vital civil liberties is by improving the quality of its intelligence and

police work. The best deterrent to terrorism is a high rate of apprehension and conviction of the criminals. And the failure of the IRA to gain political status has now made clear to the extremists that they are not going to get privileged treatment in jail.

When the mothers and families of both Republican and Loyalist extremists fully realize that even criminals claiming a political motive will be punished for serious crimes as severely as other criminals, this will become an increasingly effective deterrent. The patriarchal influence in Irish society is still enormously strong.

Thirdly, there is no real hope of subduing terrorism without gaining the fullest cooperation between the Republic and the authorities north of the border. This has been developed since the discussions which followed the Warren Point massacre and the murder of Lord Mountbatten in 1979. The fruits of this improved collaboration have been an impressive reduction in the numbers of civilian casualties on both sides of the border.

It is extremely good news that Anglo-Irish cooperation has made progress in the

security field. Both attorneys general should be encouraged to get to work swiftly on designing an all-Irish court to deal with terrorist offences. This would overcome the problem of terrorists avoiding extradition from the Republic by claiming constitutional protection. It would also compensate for the failure of the Criminal Jurisdiction Act and the European conventions on terrorism which have failed to have any impact in Ireland. It is particularly important that police investigation and cooperation be strengthened to ensure the hot pursuit of terrorists on both sides of the border.

It is not altogether surprising, though ironic, that Mr Harold McCusker, MP, and other Unionist spokesmen are demanding the abandonment of the Anglo-Irish Council initiative. But the governments in London and Dublin are absolutely right to proceed determinedly with this important breakthrough. Only this framework of long term cooperation and reconciliation can provide the possibilities of a peaceful Ireland. The Unionists in the North have nothing to fear, for the accord signed by Dr Fitzgerald and Mrs Thatcher actually reiterates the guarantee of the status of the majority in the North will not be altered unless they should at some future date choose otherwise.

All moderate and responsible opinion leaders will do their best to prevent the Loyalist community from retreating further into its larger and will try to reassure their leaders concerning the goodwill of the democratic governments of both Westminster and Dublin.

Mr Prior is right to call upon the Protestant community for calm and in his determination to resist the demand for a full military solution to the problem of terrorism, a return to internment, and the introduction of capital punishment. Far from improving the situation, this would only risk alienating moderate Catholics and give the IRA a greater potential base of support for recruits and funds.

Urgent efforts must be made to counter IRA propaganda and fund-raising in the United States and elsewhere. What is really needed is a combined major effort from Dublin and London not to put over a sectarian case but to explain the structure of long-term cooperation and reconciliation under the rule of law which they are jointly establishing. We must get over to our democratic allies the vital truth that one of democracy's terrorists is another democracy's terrorist. The struggle against terrorism is indivisible for we are all diminished if we fail to resist this cruel assault on the rights of the innocent.

None of these measures will be sufficient, however, if the fourth essential element in the war against terrorism is lacking: the courage and fortitude of the whole civilian population in Northern Ireland in standing firm behind the rule of law and the democratic constitution. Only way terrorist murderers can put the survival of democracy at risk is if the mass of the population allow themselves to be bullied into submission or despair.

I believe the overwhelming response of decent-minded people on the mainland as well as in Northern Ireland will be to echo Sir Michael Lavers' statement following the shooting at his Wembley home. His determination to beat the IRA, he said, was "as good and as strong as it ever was, in fact even stronger".

It is this spirit of resistance to the vicious bullies of the IRA which ensures that, however ghastly their crimes, they will remain what they have insisted on making themselves: experts in destruction and in the infliction of pain and suffering on the innocent. They remain politically a total irrelevance.

Paul Wilkinson

The author is Professor of International Relations at Aberdeen University and wrote a recently published study of terrorism, *The New Fascists*.

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Farewell to the nuclear powered admiral

President Reagan, at the end of his most embattled week since taking office, has just ordered the retirement of Admiral Hyman Rickover, godfather of the nuclear navy, here at the White House, 81, the oldest serving American admiral. His admirers and critics are legion, his durability and influence have rivalled J. Edgar Hoover and General Douglas MacArthur. Peter Pringle looks back over his remarkable 53-year career.

Admiral Rickover had treated a ship's crew as he treated politicians, businessmen and fellow officers in his shore-bound job as the architect of the nuclear navy, the crew would have surely mutinied.

But his early mastery of the magic of nuclear power permitted this ship of a man with a bird-like face, to bully his way into an elite band of loyal followers. He made them feel guilty if they did not work as hard as he did, and most of them did not, and he made them feel inferior if they did not know the superiority of the atom as well as he did. And none of them did.

From a humdrum, competent naval engineer, he became one of the most outstanding figures in the post-war development of atomic energy. His determination to rise above his Jewish ghetto background in Chicago's East Side and his ambition to hold power — even in the heart of WASP country, the United States Navy — drove him to accept the challenge to build one of the most extraordinary military and civilian empires ever run by a serving officer in peacetime.

A hard-headed, practical engineer, he believed as far back as 1946 that nuclear power could save the US Navy by providing submarines that could roam the seas for months without refuelling — and even, perhaps, save America itself.

He became the driving force behind the lightweight reactor type that would become the most popular civilian power reactor in the world. He built the first atomic submarine, Nautilus, in 1954, and he built the first nuclear reactor for the first US nuclear power station in 1957.

By the early 1960's he was one of the most powerful wheeler-dealers in what Eisenhower called the military-industrial complex. He awarded military contracts worth millions of dollars to billion dollar companies like Westinghouse and General Electric. By selecting Westinghouse over General Electric to build the first submarine reactor, he made the Nautilus (it was only days over when launched) Rickover had entered into a remarkable institutional arrangement that, in effect, gave him powers only available to military officers in wartime. As head of the navy's nuclear unit, he was responsible for building Nautilus, as head of the Atomic Energy Commission's naval reactor branch, he was also responsible for building the first nuclear submarine, the USS Nautilus, and as a naval officer and sometimes as an AEC official, his superiors never knew which would be his own priorities and his own interests. He wrote letters to himself in these positions.

Initially there was some caution at the AEC about giving Rickover such powers. Then, in the summer of 1949,



A warm handshake for Hyman Rickover, godfather of the US nuclear navy, on being appointed full admiral by President Nixon in 1973.

was aimed to intimidate "Everyone who has intervened tells me you are extremely conservative and have no initiative or imagination". Each applicant experienced the lash of his irascible tongue. "You're either dumb or lazy, which is it?" Some, like Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, also felt his guile.

At the time he set his sights on the Nautilus (it was only days over when launched) Rickover had entered into a remarkable institutional arrangement that, in effect, gave him powers only available to military officers in wartime. As head of the navy's nuclear unit, he was responsible for building Nautilus, as head of the Atomic Energy Commission's naval reactor branch, he was also responsible for building the first nuclear submarine, the USS Nautilus, and as a naval officer and sometimes as an AEC official, his superiors never knew which would be his own priorities and his own interests. He wrote letters to himself in these positions.

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He defied protocol, was repelled by conformity, and showed no respect for tradition, rank, procedure or official channels.

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The Russians exploded their first atomic bomb. Suddenly all reservations were swept aside: Captain Rickover got everything he wanted from the navy, except promotion. In mid-1952 he had to face the ignominy of being passed over a second time for promotion from captain to rear-admiral. Under navy rules, Rickover had to retire the following year.

He was turned down because he was not a good military man: he could lead, but he could not follow. To his superiors he was always a problem. He was a self-conscious black sheep, revelling in his lack of orthodoxy. Under navy rules, Rickover had to retire the following year.

He had left in his wake an array of personal animosities, spite and jealousy. Clinton Anderson, a powerful Congressman on the joint committee on atomic energy, recalled meeting two top navy men at a dinner party. One said to him: "That Jew bastard will never get to be admiral", and the other nodded in agreement.

Rickover refused to retire and turned to Congress for support. It came with a speed that only the magical world of atomic energy could have summoned. All members of the joint committee on atomic energy recommended that Rickover stay on. The navy swiftly gave in and Rickover became rear-admiral.

When he reached 80, almost two years ago, calls for his retirement grew loud and he knew he was safe. His acolyte, Jimmy Carter, was his commander-in-chief. When Ronald Reagan arrived in the White House his departure was only a matter of time.

Peter Pringle
This article is based on material from *The Nuclear Barons: the inside story of how they created our nuclear navy*, by Peter Pringle and James Srigleyman, to be published in Britain in January by Michael Joseph.

Mr Lee, Mr Baskett, and a matter of 10 per cent

The seemingly genteel world of fine arts and antiques was shaken in 1975 when the long-established firms of Sotheby's and Christie's announced that as well as charging vendors at auction they would levy a premium of 10 per cent on buyers. Antique dealers reacted even more angrily than the public and sought ways to end it, achieving success by exerting legal pressure. But now they are in a dilemma over their next step. It could be time for government action to prevent the public losing out, argues Geraldine Norman, *The Times* Sale Room correspondent.

Charlie Lee is a pleasant 40-year-old with a fine eye for antique furniture, clocks and works of art; his father's firm, R. A. Lee, tucked away behind Bond Street, is one of the best in London, and that means in the world.

John Baskett, 51, runs Baskett and Day on the upper floors of 173 New Bond Street. He stands in a high reputation for his "eye" and integrity. He and his brother-in-law Richard Day, formerly of Sotheby's, specialize in Old Master drawings, English

watercolours and a few good paintings for a few good clients. Charlie Lee is a third-generation dealer. John Baskett second-generation. Charlie's grandfather and great-grandfather were artists. Now Lee and Baskett are in the eye of a storm because their turns have come to act as presidents of the British Antique Dealers' Association and the Society of London Art Dealers respectively.

And this is the year of the auction premium battle. Lee and Baskett inherited from their predecessors the court action initiated in 1979 against the auctioneers Sotheby's and Christie's. Eleven dealers picked from the two associations and financed by them (with the support of dealers' associations in the United States and on the continent) were taking the auctioneers to

court for colluding over the introduction of the auction premium which they alleged, should have been registered as a Restrictive Trade Practice. A settlement was agreed by Lee, Baskett and the auctioneers on September 29 after a meeting in Claridge's which stretched on to 3.30 in the morning, under the auspices of a mediator, Mr Patrick Neill QC, Warden of All Souls. The High Court hearing, which was expected to last at least five weeks, had been scheduled to start on October 1.

The central feature of the settlement was an undertaking by Sotheby's and Christie's that they would independently (both parties are now terrified of collusion) undertake a review of their auction premium charge during the next three months with a view to reducing it.

With that, everyone concerned gave a huge sigh of relief. The dealing fraternity and the auctioneers, despite the fact that they never cease bad-mouthing each other, are mutually dependent. The auctioneers rely on the trade to buy at their sales; the dealers rely on the auctioneers for their goods. A courtroom battle would have

dragged the skeletons out of the cupboard and proved unworkable to both sides. It would have cost dealers at least £200,000 possibly as much as £700,000. The issue is now being reopened by the Office of Fair Trading. Mr Gordon Borrie, its director-general, has written to Lee and Baskett announcing that he is reviewing the question of whether the auction premium is a registrable charge under the Restrictive Trade Practices Act 1976. He goes on to ask the two presidents whether he may see the evidence. He understands they have.

The dealers put a lot of work into amassing their evidence; they had two years to do it. The settlement came only a day before the High Court action was due to be heard; the evidence was ready, speeches written. The dealers are effectively being asked to shop their colleagues, the auctioneers.

The request puts Lee and Baskett in an appalling dilemma. On the one hand they have an undertaking from the auctioneers that they will review the auction premium charge by the end of the year with a view to reducing it. If they provide

the evidence they will again be seen by the auctioneers as the "enemy" and it is unlikely that the promised reduction will materialize. On the other hand, if they refuse to pass it over they will be accused of colluding with the auctioneers to cover up a breach of the law which they have worked for two years to expose.

The dealers had been seeking to end the buyers' premium, to which, since its introduction in 1975, they have been implacably opposed: "a service charge for which no service is rendered" was how Sir Geoffrey Agnew, fine-art dealer, dubbed it.

This is not, of course, a matter which affects only the trade. The interests of the general public, as buyers and sellers at auction, must also be protected. The Office of Fair Trading is rightly suspicious of what many in the best course for the two associations would surely now be to carry their dilemma to the Department of Trade. Nobody, including the public, wants to see Sotheby's and Christie's ground into the dust over what might have amounted to a technical oversight in 1975.

As guardians of the public interest, the responsible Government department could surely find a means of settling the matter without a noisy, painful and expensive court case. Perhaps, dare one suggest it, the auctioneers might agree to drop the premium charge?

THE TIMES DIARY



Kenneth wrote an ode to a young girl, Audrey, addressed himself to the cuckoo and Cyril Fletcher will pen an odd ode to television performance. Older it would appear can be dedicated to anything and anybody at any time — a fact that was borne out yesterday when the choristers of Magdalen College, Oxford, sang an ode to a self-same tower of the college's 15th century tower.

The ode in question, written by Mr John Fuller, the poet, and one of the college's tutors in English, and set to music by Dr Bernard Rose,



Maureen Colquhoun: suspended was the victim of prejudice based on her sexual preferences and that her troubles were caused by a handful of "trotskyist conspirators".

Co-editor quits

Al Clark, co-editor of *Evening*, one of the clutch of weekly guides to what's on where in London now

Magdalen's former organist, was specially commissioned to work on the famous tower which was once described by Charles I as "the most absolute building in the world". The ode to the tower does not appear to have been recorded.

The multi-quadrant ode was sung over lunch in college yesterday after an earlier ceremony on the top of the tower. Two trumpets played the college's 17th century music. Magdalen tower is well-known for its May morning ceremony on May 1 every year when the college choir assembles on its top to greet the dawn and the spring in song.

struggling for the hearts and pockets of the metropolitan young, has resigned after what appears to have been a disagreement over policy with the magazine's youthful proprietor, Richard Branson, the head of Virgin Records.

Mr Clark, leaves shortly after the appearance of the magazine's seventh issue which contains an extraordinary full page apology to the *Daily Mirror* about the earlier publication of an anonymous letter together with a cartoon containing highly defamatory allegations concerning the newspaper and members of its staff.

Last week Mr Clark told me that he couldn't explain his reasons for leaving. "A situation has arisen which I can't really describe to you without getting emotional, without getting libellous," he said. "Even if I have been involved in a lot of apologies recently, it's a mixture of pride and prejudice and I'm concerned I have an intolerance for

power jockeying and a contempt for betrayal."

Despite these apparently harsh words he tells me that he has just ended his seven and a half year association with Richard Branson on amicable terms.

Ken's £12m loan

I wonder if the hitherto unreported news that the Greater London Council under Ken Livingstone's leadership has just raised a loan on the international money market from a most unusual source: the Bank of China — means that the United Kingdom has finally become a fully fledged member of what used to be called the third world?

The Chinese are putting up £2.5m of a £12m loan from a consortium of banks in Mexico, Brazil and, less surprisingly, Japan. The money, earmarked for capital expenditure, can be spent on housing or transport.

Apparently the loan has nothing whatsoever to do with Livingstone's recent trip to China, where he was reportedly very impressed with the way things are run — or with the present imbroglio over the council's supplementary rate precept, and "Pares Fair" policy. Nevertheless I can't help feeling that the timing of the news is somewhat unfortunate.

Playing it cool

Riccardo Muti, music director of the Philharmonia, could be wearing woollen gloves today when he conducts Kossim's *Sudra Mater* in Florence.

A British recording crew from EMI booked the palazzo as a last resort, after finding the Florence theatre's acoustics unsatisfactory and being refused permission to use any of the local churches. Recording machines have been set up in the chamber of Lorenzo the Magnificent and plans have been made to provide coats for the chorus and orchestra if they get too cold in the salons of the palazzo, which they share with statues by Michelangelo (Victory) and Vincenzo de' Rossi (Labours of Hercules). Doubtless a year hence, critics will remark on the "icy clarity" of the recording.

Quiz answers

- Dr Wendy Savage, a consultant obstetrician, and that the Prince and Princess of Wales should have a daughter, thus leaving a child to set an example to other young couples.
- Eight Street buses for the cost of one and a half pence.
- A letter by James of the Australian Ballet is likely to lead to the cancellation of some of the Royal Opera House, Sydney.
- Three.
- Compulsory review because they pay less than for behind that of other workers.
- Edna's Father called by Peter Pringle to say a scheme of voluntary reparation was successful.
- The London group Bank, Harris, McDonald carried out a dawn raid for shares in British Airways, but a similar move on them by British Sugar.
- F. W. Woodworth announced a profit of £4.5m for the third quarter, largely because of a reduction in the cost of raw materials.
- The investigation of complaints against the police in the Connaught Rooms was criticised for his arrest of a woman who was accused of being a prostitute.
- The Post Office is delaying implementation of a new system of following a suggestion from the Post Office Users' National Council.
- The abolition of the Civil Service Department.
12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100.

Simon Midgley

محاضرات الشغل



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MURDEROUS PROVOCATION

By the attempted murder of the Attorney General and his wife and by the murder of Mr Robert Bradford MP the Provisional IRA has turned to the killing of public representatives. It has not thought that politics up to now. It was not the Provisionals but another republican murder squad who killed Airey Neave in 1979; and it was the "official" IRA before it grounded arms, that made the attempt in 1972 on the life of Mr John Taylor, then a minister in the Stormont government and now a member of the European parliament.

There are several objects the Provisionals' switch of tactics would serve. One is simply to make a splash. When you have sipped full with horrors and made political murder an everyday event you need a fairly spectacular coup to keep yourself in the headlines. Another object is to pass comment, in the language of blood, on the civil and constructive politics that passed between Mrs Thatcher and Dr Fitzgerald the previous week. Another purpose served by the second crime is to abort any scheme for institution-building in Ulster that may have been conceived by Mr James Prior, by putting even further beyond reach the necessary minimum of trust between green and orange on which such a process depends. Another purpose is to provoke the Protestants of Ulster to retaliation and set the two communities at each other's throats. From that generalization of violence the IRA would reckon to profit.

The last is the most dangerous possibility, and one of which Mr Prior showed himself well aware in his immediate call for calm. There is a present danger of retaliatory

killing by Protestant gangs. Calls for restraint are necessary and proper, and it is good to note how widely they were echoed throughout the province yesterday, but it is doubtful if they are enough to avert that consequence of the IRA's deliberate provocation. In Fermanagh and other border areas ceaseless attacks on members of the security forces on or off duty have brought the Protestants there near to despairing of the ability or will of those in charge of the army and police to protect them. Now the murder of Mr Bradford is felt as a threat and challenge to the entire Protestant community because of his representative status.

They are under strong provocation to see to their own defence. By taking that course, in whatever combination of vigilantism and vengeance, they would actually increase the danger to life in their own as well as the opposing community; and they would divert the attention and manpower of the security forces from the suppression of republican criminal violence to the suppression of their own. But that consideration may not be enough to check the urge to abandon passivity and take matters into their own hands. Mr Prior must do more than counsel them not to do that; he must convince them it is not necessary.

Clearly the protection given to public men must be stiffened. That is no less necessary in Britain than in Northern Ireland. First reports of the circumstances of the explosion at Wimbledon suggest that routine protection may be more than taken there. In Ulster the security review must go much wider than that. New initiatives in

policing are required and the Ulster Defence Regiment should have a more active role. Border security should be given a higher priority and army strength increased there as necessary. Mr Prior hinted at intensified undercover operations when he spoke to unionists in Belfast on Friday, and he would be right to authorize them.

Yet Mr Prior is under an important constraint. Short of coercive measures of a factuality that would not be acceptable to political opinion in either Britain or Ireland, the IRA will be exhausted only when it is rejected by the Irish subcultures on which it battens — and rejected means among other things informed strike out of the way and the prisons quiescent; with a growing recognition in the Republic that the "national aspiration" of a British exit and the juridical unity of the island can only come as the culmination of a long period of political and cultural reconciliation, and that the length of the period is extended by every exploit of the IRA; with a greater readiness among the Roman Catholic clergy of Ireland to use their undoubted influence to frustrate the designs of the IRA; and with Ulster's long war weariness... the conditions are beginning to look more favourable for that rejection of the IRA by its own.

With an eye to the present Mr Prior needs security measures firm enough to head off a Protestant stand to arms. With an eye beyond the present he has to be careful to avoid the sort of measures that work to bind nationalists to the IRA in sympathy or resentment.

HOW TO COPE WITH CRANKS

Mr Tarquin Fintimlinbim-himbimlinbim Bus Stop-F'ang-F'ang-Ole Biscuit Barrel standing for Parliament this week. Representing the Cambridge University Raving Looney Society, Mr Barrel hopes to get the fewest votes ever recorded by a candidate in a British election. That record is held by the persistent Lieutenant-Commander William Boaks, who contests virtually every election and election on behalf of his Land Sea and Air Democratic Monarchist Public Safety White Resident and Women's Party (or a permutation thereof). He attracted 14 votes at Warrington, and is hoping for better or worse things in Crosby.

So far, so eccentric, and it would be a shame indeed if our elections were to be limited to the stable, the sensible and the boring. The recent tendency has been, however, for more and more fringe candidates, purveying strange or extreme political doctrine or personal belief. The benign system is in danger of getting out of hand through abuse by the frivolous, and by those whose sole aim is to take advantage of the special privileges available to candidates, like free postage

for their election addresses. Often, the publicity they seek is for a private, not a public, grievance.

Under the present law, which has remained unchanged since 1918, anyone wishing to stand for Parliament needs only have his nomination paper signed by ten electors of the constituency in which he wishes to stand — something which even the most absurd of candidates can achieve — and put down a deposit of £150, which is forfeited if the candidate fails to obtain 12½ per cent of the total votes cast. That sum of £150, at today's values, would be in the region of £1500. The financial hurdle to standing for Parliament has, in practice, been removed in respect of individuals, though it may still be of sizeable concern to parties fielding hundreds of candidates.

The Government is in the process of reviewing electoral law generally and a Green Paper has been promised. One of the proposals being considered with some favour would raise the deposit required to be put down to something over £1,000, but greatly reduce the number of votes that would entail its forfeiture, say, to five per cent

of the total. This would relax the potential financial burden on minority parties with national ambitions. Until recently, the Liberals had most to fear from a system which would merely raise the deposit requirements while insisting that the candidate received one-eighth of the vote. With the advent of a third party, apparently of approximately equal public appeal, that fact is of less importance. For the eccentric individual, or the fringe political movement, however, one twentieth of the vote would be quite as out of reach as one-eighth.

There is, however, another way of approaching the problem, which would have the effect of excluding the asses while allowing genuine minority candidates to stand without bearing the possible loss of a four-figure sum. The number of constituents required to sign a candidate's nomination form should be drastically increased, perhaps to 500 or 1,000. Serious minority candidates with at least an arguable platform might, by working hard, be able to reach such a quota. The totally irresponsible, with no coherent philosophy, would be hard put to get enough signatures.

choice except to stand by a loyal colleague. Mr Powell has never occupied a Front Bench seat since.

Before he made his Commons wind-up speech last week threatening that a Labour government would rationalise "privatise" oil and gas without compensation, Mr Benn was also given a chance in Shadow Cabinet to amend the line prepared by Mr Marilyn Rees, the responsible Shadow Cabinet minister, and feeling let down by Mr Benn's closing speech, Mr Rees said he must resign unless Mr Benn would extend a line of collective responsibility in the Shadow Cabinet would be vindicated.

Mr Foot scarcely acted so promptly or decisively as Mr Heath, although at least he has done calculated damage to Mr Benn in the sessional Shadow Cabinet ballot this week by withholding his personal endorsement.

Macaulay, an historian who over-optimistically believed that knowledge of the past served as the best guide for today and tomorrow, once said: "These things are written for our instruction." We may doubt it, analogies in politics should never be pressed too far, because the chemistry of events and the personalities that change some may hope, though few will believe, that the last has been seen of Mr Benn on the Opposition front bench or the Treasury Bench, and many will be sure, with of without foreboding, that one day his ambition will be fulfilled and he will lead his party.

Nor is it particularly odd that two of the ablest members of the Commons, Parliamentary speakers and debaters today without equal, both commanding more than a touch of high-class demagoguery and contemporary glibness, should kick against the restraints of collective responsibility. Such men always have affinities. To limit oneself to a particular department of affairs may be bad enough when a man of ambition and energy serves as a Minister in a government; to be limited when you are no more

than a Shadow Cabinet Minister, appointed to a portfolio on the calculation of the leader whom you hope to succeed, may be intolerable.

Two points are worth making now about Mr Benn. First, he is showing an extraordinary consistency and determination in pursuing the party's constitutionally strategy that is most likely, in the end, to bring him to the top of the pile. Give power, he says, to the Party conference, which happens to be where his own power mainly will lie. He wants the party to begin to bring into play his demagogic gifts and re-establish the old pyramid of power.

Secondly, how does Mr Benn read the prospects of the party he wants to lead? Some acute observers of Labour's fortunes, not least in the trade unions, now conclude that Mr Benn's "disruptive" tactics make sense only if it is assumed that he believes Labour must lose the next General Election. Certainly there is little or no evidence that he is prepared to place all his abilities and energies at the disposal of the party to unseat Mrs Thatcher and win a great victory for Mr Foot.

Among other things he can claim, if he wishes, more responsibility than most for the Labour split called the Social Democratic Party and Liberal Alliance, which could virtually ensure a Labour defeat in 1983 or 1984 whatever the precise balance of Parliamentary power turns out to be.

Disbanding Civil Service Department

From the Head of the Home Civil Service and the Second Permanent Secretary, Civil Service Department

Sir, May we offer a brief comment on your leading article, "Madame Guillotine", of Friday, November 13, on behalf of our former colleagues who are not free to speak for themselves.

Devising satisfactory measures of efficiency over much of the work of the Civil Service has not proved easy and perhaps the best general indicator is the number employed. As to that, you say that the Civil Service Department came to symbolize over-manning. What are the facts?

In its early months of office the Government set a target of 630,000 for Civil Service numbers by April 1, 1984, representing a reduction of 102,000 from the strength on April 1, 1979. On October 1 last, the midpoint of the period, numbers were down by 52,000. In other words we were exactly on course, one of the few economic objectives set by the Government in its early days of which that can be claimed.

Moreover, this has been achieved in spite of the need to absorb about 7,000 additional staff to pay unemployment benefit and 2,000 to man the prison service.

As to the quality of the staff who have served in the CSD, it is perhaps relevant to point out that in its 13 years' existence it has had gone on to attain the rank of Permanent Secretary in a variety of departments.

Finally there is the suggestion that the CSD has been more concerned to look after the Treasury's practical concerns for economy and efficiency in aid of the policies of the Government of the day. These are precisely the causes which have led to the failure and have led the current Prime Minister, very wisely, to restore the only kind of organization that can provide unified and purposive responsibility for the management of public sector resources, namely the Treasury.

Space does not permit an extended refutation of Mr Kellner's extraordinary, unjustified and despicable sneers at the late Lord Armstrong, to say nothing of sundry other manifestations of Mr Kellner's debt to the gossip writer school of political journalism directed at Lord Cohen and Sir Ian Hancock. Suffice it to say that, if there was any man alive in 1968 who could have made — and did make — any kind of workable sense, as an instrument for thoroughgoing reform, of Harold Wilson's thoughtless ransom to the Civil Service unions, it was William Armstrong, the most reflective, innovative, professional and courageous of postwar civil servants.

For Mr Kellner to deduce from Sir William's wish "to preserve what was best in the old system" a secret intention to "sabotage reform" shows only that Mr Kellner, as little as Aristotle school of logic as he apparently does to knowledge or understanding of Whitehall then or since.

Yours etc, PETER JAY, Garrick Club, Garrick Street, WC2, November 13.

Complaints on police

From the Chairman of the Police Complaints Board

Sir, I do not want to engage in a public argument about my admittedly speculative estimate of the possible cost of an independent organisation to investigate complaints against police officers, and to answer any such (November 6) that research is needed if changes which have been proposed to the present system are to be considered.

I am, however, concerned that there is a widespread misunderstanding of the nature and scale of whatever your constituents' complaints, and I suggest, respectfully, that this misunderstanding is reflected in the comparison which Mr Buck makes between the work of the Parliamentary Commission for the Reform of the Police and the investigation of complaints against the police.

The figure of 150-300 cases which I mentioned is the approximate number of complaints made annually involving death or serious injury. There are no figures available centrally, but we know that an investigation of the type mounted in the Blair Peach or James Kelly cases can be very costly. In one such case 10 officers were engaged for 45

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Government investment in housing

From the President of the National Federation of Housing Associations and others

Sir, The need for more Government investment in housing has become urgent. House building is at its lowest level (excluding the war years) since the early 1920s. Although it is generally agreed that Britain needs an extra 300,000 homes each year, neither in 1980 nor in 1981 will half this figure be achieved. Inevitably a growing shortage of homes is beginning to emerge. At the same time, the job of modernizing run-down older property has slowed dramatically.

We welcome the Government's commitment to extend home ownership. But this does not meet the urgent, indeed increasingly desperate need for rented housing. Not only has the supply of rented housing been seriously affected by the reduced building programme, but the stock of existing accommodation owned by private landlords continues to decline by around 200,000 homes a year. Some 40 per cent of the remaining privately rented stock is in need of substantial improvement.

We see little prospect of any new private investment. For those who cannot possibly become owner-occupiers — the unemployed, those with low earnings, aged parents, families with the disabled, and others with special needs — Government investment in rented housing is the only hope.

Public expenditure on housing makes good financial sense. Spending now on the improvement of deteriorating housing forests heavier costs or demolition later. Investment in housing helps to ease related problems which otherwise lead to heavier spending by the health and social services. Maintaining some momentum in the construction industry avoids the danger of its reaching so low a level that it suffers irreparable damage.

With unemployment in the

Rejected babies

From Mr David G Lindsay

Sir, The reaction to the Arthur case further demonstrates our obsessive preference for moral pontification over the hard grind of seeking practical solutions.

Surely there must be some appropriately motivated charitable bodies capable of organizing a list of suitable substitute parents willing and able to take on the care and upbringing of babies rejected by their own parents at birth and providing the adoptive parents with any requisite financial resources and expert help?

Life, by its wholly misused approach to the recent case, has clearly discredited itself, but, if the opinion polls (showing substantial support for the idea of keeping alive parent-rejected babies) are to be believed, a great deal of public (not government) help could be expected for such a project.

Deeds, not words, are called for. Yours faithfully, DAVID G LINDSAY, 36, Orchard Coombe, Whitchurch Hill, Reading, Berkshire, November 9.

Mightier than the pen

From Mr Tom Phillips

Sir, I was interested to read Dorothy Hobson's article on Saturday, November 7, which sought to distinguish between popular and literary culture, and somewhat misleadingly argued that in the case of the former the public outcry over the attempt to kill Meg Mortimer of Crossroads has marked the "emergence" of a form of audience power over mass-entertainment.

In the mid-eighteenth century, when word spread that Samuel Richardson, whose bestselling novel, *Clarissa*, was being published volume by volume, intended that his heroine's virtue should be rewarded in heaven rather than upon earth, there was a similar widespread outcry. Richardson received many letters from outraged readers pleading for the life of *Clarissa*, but he successfully resisted the pressure, to the great relief of all who now (mostly, alas, academics) read the book as one of the principles of English eighteenth-century novels.

It was also in the eighteenth century that *King Lear* was rewritten with a happy ending because of the gratuitously shocking nature of Shakespeare's closing scene, and I am sure that there are many other instances, in this and other periods, to show that the debate about whether a story has any accountability to its audience, other than that resulting from the need for it to be read or seen in the first place, is considerably older than the present furore about *Crossroads*.

Yours faithfully, TOM PHILLIPS, 91 St James' Drive, SW17, November 9.

Touch of glory

From the Reverend J. M. Charles-Roux

Sir, I hope you will not consider impertinent that a foreigner should point out to you and to your Moscow Correspondent, that the canonization by the Russian Church in exile of the martyred Tsar Nicholas II and his family, reported in *The Times* (November 6), raises to the Christian altars not only the first cousin of King George V, since the Dowager Empress of Russia, mother of the late Emperor, and Queen Alexandra were sisters, but also two granddaughters and five great-grandchildren of Queen Victoria; since the Empress, consort of Nicholas II, and her sister Elizabeth, who was, at the time of her martyrdom, nun and the widow of Grand Duke Serge of Russia, were daughters of the devout and indeed saintly Princess Alice of Great Britain, who had married into the House of Hesse.

As, besides, the Russian Orthodox Church in exile is in communion with the Oecumenical Patriarch and hence with the Church of England as well as with the Church of Rome which considers the Orthodox East in no more than a state of schism and one moreover, since the lifting of the anathemas, no longer bitter but friendly, one may well wonder whether this canonization is not due to be automatically accepted by the Western churches. As a matter of fact, it seems to have been the continual practice, despite the divisions between Christians, to recognize each others' saints.

Thus is one not without some reason for believing that the holiness, now officially defined and proclaimed by the Russian Church in exile, of these Sovereigns and their family who were put to death because they were the incarnation of the Christian principles of the state, does validly reflect upon the House of Hesse and the British Crown touching them with a ray of gentle heavenly glory.

Yours sincerely in our Divine Saviour, JOHN MARIA CHARLES-ROUX, St Etheldreda's, 14 Ely Place, EC1

Matrimonial burdens

From Mr and Mrs R. Brain

Sir, We have decided, after studying the costings on page 1 today (November 11), and the distribution of household chores between us, that economic and domestic equilibrium would best be secured if we each paid the other £15.734 per day.

Yours faithfully, L. R. BRAIN, R. BRAIN, 4 Badminton, Galsworthy Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, November 7.

David Wood

Benn: a leaf from Powell's old book

In all the hubbub about the Benn affair nobody seemed to notice that there is a striking resemblance between the circumstances in which Mr Heath fustily dismissed Mr Enoch Powell from the Opposition front bench over immigration, and the circumstances in which Mr Foot insisted that Mr Benn should toe the line of collective responsibility inside the Labour Shadow Cabinet. Even much of the detail matches.

Over a decade ago I remember being on the telephone one Sunday morning to a familiar and firm voice in Broadstairs. Enoch Powell would be dismissed from the front bench; if he were not, then Quintin Hogg would resign. On the preceding Wednesday evening, the Shadow Cabinet had planned for the following week's business in the Commons, which included immigration. Quintin Hogg, carrying responsibility for Home Office affairs, had stated the drift of the Opposition amendment and his opening speech. When Mr Heath demurred, Mr Hogg, with characteristic generosity, had invited him to amend the phrasing to his liking and agreed to speak to that.

That weekend Mr Powell chose to deliver in the country one of his most famous, or some would say infamous, speeches on immigration policy. Mr Hogg no sooner heard the news than he told Mr Heath that, if the Powell form of words meant or implied that, he could not accept it, he could not defend it in Commons, and he pressed to resign as Shadow Home Secretary. Mr Heath felt he had no

Doubts of
Stockman,
page 15

Business News

THE TIMES Monday November 16 1981

Solve your gift problems fast

VICTORIA WINE

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Howe in talks to liberalize insurance

From Peter Norman
Brussels, Nov 15

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has called his fellow EEC finance ministers to a special meeting here on Tuesday to try to unlock negotiations on liberalizing the European insurance market. There are signs that West Germany may be softening its resistance to change.

Commission proposals for a new directive that would open up the EEC market for large scale non-life insurance have become deadlocked in the Council of Ministers, with Britain and Holland advocating freedom for EEC insurers to contract cross-frontier business in the face of opposition from the other member states.

But this week, the ministers will be presented with West German compromise proposals which appear to go some way towards meeting Britain's demands for a more liberal regime.

According to diplomatic sources in Brussels, the West Germans have relaxed their previous stand that supervisory authorities inside the EEC must be given prior notification of the details of an insurance contract when the party wishing to obtain insurance runs for cover to an insurer from another Community country.

Britain has always insisted that such provisions in a highly competitive and fast-moving business such as industrial, professional and commercial insurance would amount to exclusion of foreign insurers from within the Community.

Whether the German proposals prove on closer inspection to be sufficient to get the negotiations moving again remains to be seen.

But the question of prior notification has emerged over the past 11 months as the key obstacle to forging a liberal directive. However, there are many other problems to be solved, such as the tax regime for insurance contracts and the rights of branches and agencies to write cross-frontier business.

PLAYBOY BID UNDER ATTACK

Growing criticism from Trident Television's shareholders over its bid for Playboy's casinos is threatening to undermine the £17m deal.

Criticism is especially strong from Trident's institutional shareholders, with investment fund managers M & G pointing out the risks in completing the transaction without any guarantee of casino licences, which have been withdrawn.

Playboy has agreed to sell terms with Trident for its three casinos in London, two in the provinces and 80 betting shops throughout the country.

Both sides deny there has been any hitch to the sale going ahead, although it is reported that Playboy began talks last week with other parties interested in buying the casinos.

New warning by Malaysia

Malaysia, which has ordered public enterprises to submit the names of British suppliers with a 20 per cent discount choice to the government for final approval, is not planning to boycott British goods but might do if necessary. Datuk Tan Razak, Deputy Finance Minister, said at Pekan, Malaysia, yesterday.

He said Britain should change its intransigent attitude on trade and investment. Malaysia wants to raise the indigenous stake in the economy from 13 per cent to 30 per cent.

Linwood auction

The ten-day sale starts today of 14,000 lots at the former Talbot car plant at Linwood, near Glasgow, which closed in May.

Stock Markets

FT Index 519.2 up 1.0
FT 100 63.68 up 0.45
FT All Share 308.28
down 0.25, 817

Sterling

\$ 1.9080 up 1.30 cents
Index 90.7 up 1.3
New York: \$1.9120

Dollar

Index 107.0 up 0.3
DM 2.2200 up 63 pts

Gold

\$412 up \$1.50
New York: \$413.80

Money

3 mth sterling 144.144
3 mth Euro \$ 13.141
6 mth Euro \$ 13.131

(Friday's close)

State may bail out private steel makers

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

The Government could release public funds to bail out Britain's recession-hit independent steel makers.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, is under pressure to agree to a scheme which would go ahead before the end of this month.

Cabinet members are due to discuss the scheme on which a limited aid scheme could be accommodated and justified later this week. Mr Jenkin is thought to be more sympathetic than Sir Keith Joseph, his predecessor, to the plea for aid to promote restructuring and rationalization, and to provide some counter-balance to the near £2,000m poured into the British Steel Corporation over the past two years.

The Prime Minister and Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, however, will have to be convinced that aid will not expose the Government to a stream of requests from other sectors of recession-battered industry which would undermine the foundation of their tough non-interventionist industrial policy.

Any aid would be small compared to that received by the British Steel Corporation, although according to some industry sources up to £50m could be involved. Any such funds are likely to be restricted only to companies which produce over 100,000 tons of steel a year, and to those which are not part of a larger group of companies.

The most likely aid route would be the 1972 Industry

Act with provision of funds linked directly to the Paris Treaty which established the European Coal and Steel Community. The funds would be used for the restructuring of the industry in the coming years. So far this year 11,000 private sector workers have been made redundant and companies need funds for enhanced redundancy payments to those workers who are likely to be affected by further reorganization.

The EEC Commission has to approve such aid, although no serious objections are likely since the Commission is heavily involved in promoting restructuring throughout the Community to eliminate over-capacity and stabilize the market.

Earlier this year, the British Government was among the advocates of a new code on state aid to the steel industry which was adopted by the Council of Ministers and which laid down a timetable for the phasing-out of subsidies to a range of normal commercial disciplines.

But in recent talks with Mr Jenkin, leaders of the British Independent Steel Producers' Association emphasized their worries that the future of several private sector companies was being threatened by the Government's continuing subsidization of BSC.

They argued that, by funding only the corporation as part of the Europe-wide efforts, the Government was contravening the spirit if not the letter of the EEC code. The state aid decision included provisions for an even-handed treatment of the entire steel industry in each member state.

Gatt hopes to end US-EEC trade row

From Alan McGregor, Geneva, Nov 15

Members of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade Council will meet on Tuesday in the hope of disposing of the United States-EEC dispute on export subsidies that has been before the council for almost 10 years.

It involves the Community's complaints against the United States for tax deferral purposes permitted under the Domestic International Sales Corporation legislation and United States counter-complaints against France, Belgium

and the Netherlands for tax exemption to foreign subsidiaries of national companies.

It is agreed to be reached on Tuesday the Gatt council will meet especially to adopt the four-panel report before its annual meeting opens on November 22.

The United States Administration wants to "clear the decks" in Gatt, which President Reagan is advocating as the best instrument for reducing obstacles to world trade and so helping developing countries.

Bank studies cable link

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The feasibility of running private telecommunications circuits for a few years beneath the streets of London is being studied by merchant bank N M Rothschild.

The bank has been approached by several potential users of such a network since it announced in August that it had purchased about 80 per cent of the London Hydraulic Power Company for £1m.

Six proposals are being studied which would use the

160 miles of underground piping, owned by the hydraulic company to carry telecommunications cable.

The Greater London Council will soon be the first customer of the Rothschild investment. The council has finished clearing the pipes ducts to make them suitable for carrying the fibre optic cable it intends to lay between County Hall and New Scotland Yard. The cable is expected to be laid within the next few weeks.

World recession threat to Britain

By Melvyn Westlake

A deterioration in the world economy could pose a new threat to Britain when the worst of the domestic recession appears to have passed.

City analysts are becoming increasingly gloomy about the international economic outlook as the effects of high interest rates and tough policies take their toll in the main industrialized nations.

Forecasts from City stockbrokers Phillips and Drew predict that output in the non-Communist industrial world will rise by only 1.5 to 2 per cent in 1982, compared with an average of about 3.5 per cent in the 1970s. This would be a little better than the 1.25 per cent increase in output expected this year but less than that predicted only a few weeks ago.

Economists at Phillips and Drew are much gloomier about prospects in both the United States and West Germany,

which are among Britain's biggest markets. The output of goods and services in the United States is expected to expand by only 1 per cent next year—only half the rate of growth likely this year and not much more than half the level which had been expected previously for 1982.

At the same time, only a slight pick-up is expected in Europe in 1982. The forecast growth in West Germany has also been halved, for the year as a whole, with a further fall in the country's output forecast during the first half of 1982.

Another City stockbroker, Simon and Coates, has revised downwards its forecast growth for the United States next year, although it is less pessimistic than some other analysts. However, it is gloomier about the outlook for output in Britain.

Neither broker sees Britain achieving more than 1 per cent

growth in 1982 after two years of contraction.

This bleak picture is likely to be confirmed by economists of the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development next month when it produces its own forecasts. These will be presented to the economic policy committee meeting this week.

Last summer, OECD economists were predicting that economic recovery in the industrial world would be modest and hesitant because of strong deflationary forces acting on major countries. It now seems likely that even this forecast could prove too optimistic.

Dr Paul Neill, chief economist at Phillips and Drew, says in the latest *World Investment Review* that despite the agreement to freeze oil prices, prospects for world activity are discouraging, with the United States leading the world down. The cause is the lagged effect

of high interest rates combined with tight fiscal policies pursued in most countries in response to the big oil price increase last year. High interest rates have had a substantial impact on output in the United States, which is set to fall significantly at least up to the second quarter of next year.

This fall in business activity is boosting the American budget deficit because welfare spending is rising as a consequence.

Phillips and Drew see some reduction in inflation, predicting that prices will rise on average by 8.5 per cent next year in the industrial world, compared with about 10.25 per cent this year and 12.75 per cent in 1980.

In the British economy, Simon and Coates estimate that public spending in the financial year 1982/83, will be some £5,000m higher than the Government expected.

OFT checks grocery discounting code

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Office of Fair Trading is investigating whether the grocery industry needs a discounting code of practice.

Mr Gordon Borrie, director general, has been sounding out the big multiple grocers and their suppliers in a move to tackle the problem of the scale of discounts secured by big volume buyers.

His brief is to find out how far the two sides of the industry would be prepared to back such a code.

It could lead to a curbing of the big multiples' growing buying power over which there is mounting anxiety in Whitehall. It was against this background that Mr Borrie intervened last week in Argyl Foods' bid to take over Lifford.

An alternative to a code is also being explored by the Food and Drink Industries Council (FDIC), umbrella body for trade associations representing the manufacturers in the sector.

FDIC is preparing draft guidelines on discounting which it hopes Mr Borrie will be prepared to adopt.

Mr Borrie has been under pressure to bring in discount guidelines but has doubted the practicability of such a move.

FDIC has met some snags in its drafting. Mr Borrie was particularly disappointed that there was no additional guidance on the discounts issue in last May's report on discounts to retailers made by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

This report is still being considered by the Department of Trade, where some officials are unhappy that it did not go further, even though it found discrimination in favour of the big multiples. The Commission recommended no new legislative action because additional discounts secured by large volume buyers had been passed on to consumers.

The Commission acknowledged there were fears that the big multiples could dominate the industry to the disadvantage of suppliers and consumers and urged a close watch on mergers.

Guidelines set out by Mr Borrie in a code of practice agreed between the two sides of the industry could provide a formula, but Mr Borrie doubts whether a satisfactory code can be put together.

British Supermarkets & Superstores, Jordan Surveys, Jordan House, 47 Brunswick Place, London N1, £85.

Move to curb cheap taps

By Our Commercial Editor

Government action on sub-standard taps from Italy and Portugal is being urged by the National Brass Foundry Association, the trade body for British manufacturers of water fittings.

The association is pressing the Department of the Environment to encourage the National Water Council to bring in a stringent system of approval and testing for taps, including mixer taps.

Of 21 tap fittings from Italy and Portugal, only one had sufficient plating to meet minimum British Standard requirements, the association said yesterday. Six fittings had less than a quarter of the minimum needed for nickel.

Investigation of the quality of imported fittings was started after it was noticed that they sold 15 per cent cheaper than comparable British products.

Query on 'subsidy' for tractor imports

By Edward Townsend
Industrial Correspondent

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, will face a series of questions in the House of Commons today about allegations that Britain's hard-pressed tractor industry is facing unfair and government-subsidized competition from France and Italy.

Claims that these and other European countries are infringing EEC regulations by offering so-called hidden subsidies to tractor dealers are being investigated by Mr Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Rutherford, whose constituents include workers laid off from the nearby David Brown tractor plant.

Mr Sheerman wants Mr Biffen to mount an immediate investigation and he is also asking the European Commission to study the allegations.



Biffen: urged to investigate claims.

He said at the weekend: "Once again, as with the textile industry, it is the case of British industry being undermined by the cynical manipulation of the rules by other member countries, while the British Government sticks to the letter of the law."

It was also being alleged that the British industry was disadvantaged in certain overseas markets because of some EEC governments offering much greater loans to tractor manufacturers, he added.

A third factor said to be hitting the UK industry was the suspected dumping of East European vehicles at prices often as much as 40 per cent below the cost of home-produced tractors.

Britain's tractor industry, in which the principal companies include Massey-Ferguson, David Brown, International Harvester and Ford, last year suffered a 24 per cent drop in domestic sales to just over 21,000—the worst home market for 16 years.

This year's figures are feared to show a further 15 per cent fall, but a surge in sales largely as a result of favourable harvest conditions, has caused a minor boom and industry leaders are now hoping that the market will be down by only 2 per cent.



Bar's eye-view of a Gothic mansion from one of the new aerial platforms.

New monsters at old hall

Modern monsters have been in residence over the past few days at a former home of Count Dracula, a neo-Gothic mansion near Windsor which has featured in about 200 Hammer horror films.

The old hall, now a luxury hotel, is where Leverton, a Unilever subsidiary, has been demonstrating a new range of mobile aerial platforms. The self-propelled platforms break new technical ground by being extendable up to 85 feet while height, direction and speed can be regulated by an operator in the air.

Made by Calaver, of Los Angeles, the platforms are adaptable for industrial, commercial and military uses.

The platforms have already been used to repair bridges for British Rail, and to maintain the complicated electric circuit illuminating Harrods, in Knightsbridge, London.

With a range of 36 models varying in price from £10,000 to £400,000, either for internal or external use, Calaver hopes to expand their business in Britain to between £50m and £60m by 1985-86.

BUSINESS BRIEFING



Miner rows to the pit

Believe it or not, the oarsman above is a coal miner going to work. Mr Philip Chappell, 25, is one of a team of miners at Blidworth, near Mansfield, taking part in a scheme, unprecedented in Britain, to pump fine coal out of a slurry waste pond for treatment in the coal preparation plant.

A floating pontoon, called a Mudcat, and using a hydraulic winch, is expected to recover 560,000 tonnes of coal.

THIS WEEK

Today: Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, is to answer questions on the Government's economic policy at a meeting of the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee. Engineering pay talks, EEC farm and foreign ministers' meeting in Brussels. European Parliament in session until November 20. Retail sales (provisional figures for October).

Tomorrow: ACAS conference on Improving Industrial Relations at Sutton Coldfield. EEC finance ministers to discuss creation of a community directive for non-life insurance risks. EEC Council of Ministers discusses Multi-Fibre Arrangements.

Wednesday: Mr David Steel addresses United States Chamber of Commerce in London. Mr Michael Heseltine, the Environment Secretary, to attend launch of glass manufacturers' recycling scheme. MFA negotiations resume in Geneva. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Industry Secretary, to speak at Machine Tool Trades Association dinner. Preliminary estimates of gross domestic product, based on output data (3rd quarter); indices of average earnings (September); indices of basic wage rates (October).

Thursday: Prince of Wales to speak at Institution of Mechanical Engineers dinner. Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (third quarter) provisional figures; capital spending by the manufacturing, distributive and service industries (third quarter provisional); construction, new orders (September); London dollar and sterling certificates of deposit (mid-October); United Kingdom banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (mid-October); United Kingdom economy cycle indicators (October); sales and orders of the engineering industries (August).

Company results: Royal Insurance, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group, Rigsons Brewery, Savoy Hotel, Tesco Stores, Channel Tunnel Investments, Unilever, Beecham, W. H. Smith & Son Holdings, Boots Co., Powell Duffryn, Royal Dutch Petroleum, Shell Transport and Trading, Black Arrow, Godfrey Davis Holdings, and Rean Consolidated Mines.

Clothing sales rise

Sales of women's underwear rose nearly 50 per cent in September, compared with September 1980, according to the Textile Distributors' Association. Other textile sales to increase were women's jumpers, blouses and skirts (8.7 per cent), women's coats (12.3 per cent), women's stockings and children's socks (8.3 per cent) and men's and boys' clothing and overalls (2.5 per cent).

But single-yarn production in the cotton and allied textile industry was 3 per cent down on September, 1980, according to the Textile Statistics Bureau. The number of employees in the industry declined by 350 in September, making the total to 12,000, 24 per cent down on a year earlier.

US steel probe

The Reagan Administration has started an investigation into the prices some overseas steel makers are charging in the United States. The action could lead to the imposition of duties against Romania, Belgium, Brazil, South Africa and France.

£68m for airliner

The Italian Government is to give Aeritalia a first allocation of 150,000 lire (£52m) for its joint venture with Aerospaziale of France to produce a medium-range airliner, the ATR42, with 42 to 49 seats.

X-dam, a Slough-based wholesaler of computer peripheral equipment, has been bought by Techniron International of the United States, itself part of the Dynair Corporation.

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Spotlight on hotels and breweries

A cash call from Grand Metropolitan has become almost inevitable, according to Bass's brokers Capel-Cure Myers and investors should consider selling some of their shares now to take up the rights in full at a later stage.

The note that Grand Metropolitan's acquisition of the Intercontinental Hotels group makes it one of the largest hotel chains in the world — but the deal also boosts capital gearing to 70 per cent.

The recent share price performance has reflected the increasing likelihood of a rights issue in 1982 and Capel-Cure believes this will continue until such time as a cash call is made. Because of the dampening effect of this and the expected under performance of the shares, a reduction in the weighting of the shares would be appropriate.

The brokers examine prospects for a number of groups

who, like Grand Metropolitan, have diversified out of brewing. They say that Bass's Crest Leisure business and its Coral Leisure business make the shares a attractive proposition — indeed, they are likely to outperform the rest of the sector.

This year Bass is likely to make profits of £12m, compared with £11m, rising to £14m in 1982.

Brokers' views

However, they advise investors to move out of Scottish and Newcastle, Allied-Lyons, and Guinness, while the defensive qualities of Whitbread seem to be the only attraction.

Crucially, Grant consider that portfolio should contain brewery shares, believing that

in the results season now starting most companies will have shown they are able to weather a prolonged period of difficult conditions surprisingly well.

There are conflicting views on Redland from two brokers. Phillips and Drew believe profits in the current year are likely to show a further decline — from £46.7m to £41.2m — and that the shares seem too high despite the prospect of a recovery in 1982-83.

Rowe and Pitman, however, say the shares are now at a level where they should be purchased because of recovery hopes. They think Redland is a well managed company and should be regarded as a core holding in the building materials sector. At present levels the shares should be bought for the strong earnings recovery expected over the next few years.

Business appointments

New chief for F.C. Finance

Mr Tom O'Malley has been made managing director of F.C. Finance, the finance house subsidiary of the Co-operative Bank. He succeeds Mr John C. Watts as director of the company.

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Mr Arthur Holden has been made director of government relations of Tesco. He takes over from Mr Denis Bannan who has retired from the company. Mr Holden retains his responsibilities as director of administration and is a member of the board of Tesco.

Mr K. L. Lifford, who is managing director of the property division of the bank, has been made a member of the board of the bank. He succeeds Mr J. A. Smith as a member of the board.

Mr K. F. D. Wilson will become managing director of British Oil Trading on April 1, 1982 on the retirement of Mr R. A. Smith. Mr Wilson will take over from Mr R. A. Smith as managing director of the company.

Mr J. A. Smith will become managing director of British Oil Trading on April 1, 1982 on the retirement of Mr K. F. D. Wilson. Mr Smith will take over from Mr K. F. D. Wilson as managing director of the company.

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Third World to boost Unilever profits

Most blue chips enjoyed a strong run on the back of last week's sharp rise in the equity market and further gains may be seen this week when three of the FT index constituents, Boots, Beecham and Unilever, report.

In addition, Tesco should keep up interest in the food sector with its half-year statement, while Shell produces its third-quarter report.

Unilever's half-year results from international giant Unilever are hanging fire against a background of

excited City expectations and the company's exhortation not to expect the moon.

Some analysts are looking for pretax profits in the region of £180m to £200m with the bottom of that range being the more likely.

The group's performance for the nine months to September 30 has given cause for optimism, according to analysts. Nigeria has performed well, as have many of the other third world locations. Earlier this year, the company announced improved marketing strategies in various countries.

Dividend prospects are good, though much will ultimately depend on the relative strengths of the pound against the Dutch guilder.

Recent figures from

Today — Interims: Australia and New Zealand, Broomberg, Caring, Emory, Land Securities, Investment Trust, Phillips, Lamps, South West Consolidated Resources (9 months), Tank's Consolidated Investments, Walker and Staff, Zylg Dynamics.

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Third-quarter figures for Shell Transport and Trading on Thursday have set analysts something of a problem when taking into account the interim figures which showed a £400m currency write-off.

It is doubtful whether the exercise will be repeated this time in what is traditionally one of the groups quieter trading periods.

Therefore, a figure of £250m in net revenue seems likely, compared with £391m for the corresponding quarter. Oil demand is expected to show a slight upturn.

A strong final quarter is expected to put net revenue for the full year at £1,200m against £2,200m.

Tesco Stores Holdings' results for the first six months are likely to prove uninspiring tomorrow, with the group undergoing a change of image. Estimates place profits at £12m compared with £11.4m for the corresponding half.

The non-food side continues to show little sign of picking up, while the food side — which makes up the bulk of profits — has come under increasing pressure from J. Sainsbury and Asda has lost some of its market share.

At the same time, the group's policy of expansion, has continued apace with several stores just opened or about to be. This in turn has placed further pressure on borrowings which now stand at 26 per cent of shareholders' funds, and which last year resulted in interest charges of £15.75m.

Second-half profits should run out at £38m compared with 1980's disappointing result of £35.6m.

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[Free translation of the official French text]

UNION MINIERE
Société Anonyme

Registered Office: rue de la Charcoaleries 1, Brussels
Banque Royale de Commerce N° 6877 - 1901

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Shareholders are invited to attend the Extraordinary General Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 24th November, 1931, at 2.30 p.m. in the Office of the "Société Générale de Belgique" 30 rue Royale, Brussels.

AGENDA

1. Report of the Board of Directors explaining the interest for the company of the hereafter proposed operations and report of the legal Auditor on the transfers to be made in execution of these operations.

2. Ratification of the liquidation and winding up of the company. Homologation of accounts and fixing of their amounts.

3. Duties of the liquidators:

(a) The liquidator branch of the company activities to a new "société anonyme", to be incorporated under the name of "Union Minière", with a capital of 10,000 millions Belgian francs, represented by 1,000,000 shares without par value, on the basis of the company's financial statements as of August 31, 1931. All operations completed by the present company since that date until the date upon which the transfer will be effective, within the limits of the above-mentioned branch of activities, will be deemed to be made for the benefit of the new company of the same name. From this transfer, 661,251 shares fully paid-in will be issued to the present company;

(b) 661,251 shares representing — Société Générale de Belgique — whose statutory seat is located 30, rue Royale in Brussels, of all the account of its assets as of that date, including therefore the consideration for the transfer proposed under item (a);

(c) transference, with all assets and liabilities, of the business to be renewed, and thus on the basis of the balance sheet dated December 31, 1930, all operations completed by the present company since that date until the date when the transfer will be effective, will be deemed to be made for the benefit of the new company, "Société Générale de Belgique";

(d) the proceeds of those made since September 1st, 1931 within the limits of the branch of activities transferred to the new company; and

(e) the consideration for the transfer of the branch of the account of the entire firm, in consideration of which will be deemed to be made the following:

(i) transfer 5,681,325 "parts de réserve" fully paid-up with right to dividends belonging to the shareholders of the company, who have the name will be changed in "Société Générale de Belgique";

(ii) support all debts and liabilities of the existing company, (iii) fulfil all of its obligations, (iv) support all cost related to the winding up of the company and (v) guarantee the company and its liquidators against any action.

(d) allocation among the shareholders of the 5,681,325 "parts de réserve" representing the above-mentioned items (i), (ii) and (iii) of the transfer of the branch of the account of the entire firm, in consideration of which will be deemed to be made the following:

(i) transfer 5,681,325 "parts de réserve" of Société Générale de Belgique" for 5,681,325 of Union Minière after which the name will be changed in "Anzinienne Union Minière", without delivery of any fraction.

(ii) transfer of the name "Anzinienne Union Minière" and as a consequence, modification of article 1 of the "Statuts".

5. Fixing the procedure to be followed in view of giving discharge to the Board of Directors and its members, and organizing the attendance to the general meetings to the exchange of shares.

6. Acknowledgment that the dividend which will be taken, will only be distributive upon approval of the operations by the shareholders.

In order to be admitted to this Meeting owners of bearer shares must deposit their shares not later than Thursday 16th November, 1931, with anyone of the following banks:

in Belgium: with "Société Générale de Belgique", in Brussels or any of its other offices and agencies.

In France: with "Banque Belge (Paris)" 12, rue Weyss, 75002.—Paris.

and the participants with "Assurances-Renclon-Bank", Hornsgate 595, 1001 Amsterdam.

Owners of bearer shares will be admitted to the Meeting on producing a statement from one of the banks mentioned above certifying that they own the shares and certifying that the shares will remain deposited from 19th to 24th November, 1931 included.

Owners of registered shares must advise the Company not later than Thursday 16th November, 1931, of their intention to attend the Meeting.

Premises conferred according to article 30 of the Article of Association, must be deposited not later than Thursday 16th November, 1931, at the Company's Registered Office, rue de la Charcoaleries 1, Brussels.

Proxy forms are available to shareholders at the Company's Registered Office and also at the above-mentioned banks.

The Board of Directors

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

* Ex dividend. * Ex div. * Forfeited dividend. * Corrected price. * Interim payment paused. * Price at suspension. * Dividend and yield include a special payment. * Bid for company. * Pre-merger figures. * Forfeited earnings. * Ex capital distribution. * Ex rights. * Ex scrip or share split. * Tax free. * Price adjusted for late dealings. * No significant data.

Tennis



Jimmy Connors with the trophy after his Benson and Hedges victory

McEnroe loses head and crown

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent

John McEnroe, the Wimbledon and United States champion, was beaten 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 by Jimmy Connors, a former winner of both titles in the singles final of the Benson and Hedges tournament at Wimbledon yesterday. Whereas Connors was competing for the first time since he won the tournament in 1976, McEnroe was playing at Wimbledon for the fourth consecutive year and, until yesterday, had won 19 singles at the cost of only one set.

When McEnroe was two sets up and firmly in charge, it seemed that the final might be merely another chapter in the Wimbledon supremacy and even something of an anti-climax. It turned out to be a lot of things but there was certainly no hint of anti-climax—not that is, until McEnroe's emotional stamina suddenly snapped when he went 3-2 down in the fifth set.

The final lasted for three hours and a half and took the form of a three-act drama. The first act was subdued, with McEnroe so dominating the stage that at times Connors just seemed to be feeding him lines. The second act came into force, with a lot of unsavoury court talk, as McEnroe was first warned for misconduct and then penalised a point. That introduced a last act in which Connors, thriving on the heavy air of disputation, excitedly jumped into the driving seat and stayed there—partly because McEnroe's head was whirling with thoughts that everything was against him and that a fine and even a suspension might be the outcome. It was announced later that pending appeal, McEnroe had incurred two separate fines of \$530 each, which would take him over the limit for a 12-month period and thus lead to automatic 21-day suspension. These fines were for "abusing" ball racket, Connors incurred a \$400 fine for obscenity.

There were moments, such as the prize fighting nature of the contest and the public's reaction to it, when one might have wondered why the match had not been billed Mack the Mouth vs. Jimmy the Bitch. Connors, in three sets, such imagery kept popping into the front of the mind.

Hockey

Bucks and Surrey will represent the South

By Sydney Friskin

A talented Buckinghamshire 3 team, led by captain John Kent, achieved a decisive victory over Kent at Bromley yesterday. The Kent side, however, was the better of the two, having won the Middlesex last year's county championship, were beaten 2-1 by Surrey at Chesham. So, Buckinghamshire and Surrey will represent the South in the national round of this year's county championships.

The first half of the match at Bromley belonged largely to Buckinghamshire, whose speed and individual skills in their attacks look more compelling than Kent, showing good balance and control, were well in the game even when two goals down. But when Buckinghamshire scored their third goal just before half-time, Kent had only to drive the ball into goal.

Kent, well prompted from the middle by Kullar, made a great effort to repair the damage but one of their best chances was lost when Louden came out of the goal to smother a shot from Marshall. Their spirits rose when Sains converted a short corner for Buckinghamshire shortly before half time, stopping the run from the line himself and sending the ball hard along the ground.

That was the end of the game as a spectacle. It was decided that the second half, particularly after a flare up between Marshall and Kent, would be played at a later date. Kent, who had been suspended by the referee, was sent off for a foul. Kent, who had been suspended by the referee, was sent off for a foul.

After Berkshire had spent the first 10 minutes in attack, missing some goalkeeping opportunities from good crosses by their acting captain, Jane Towell, it was Miss

Rugby Union

All Blacks cash in on tried tactics

From Ian Robertson
Toulouse, Nov 15

New Zealand 13

The All Blacks' current domination of the world rugby stage continued at Toulouse on Saturday when they narrowly beat France in a fiercely contested but unspectacular match. The French scrum was excellent in every phase and the occasional rapid thrusts of their three-quarters and their generally more flamboyant and adventurous style were comfortably blunted by the well-organized defence of the tourists.

In the past six months the All Blacks have been dominant in every phase and the occasional rapid thrusts of their three-quarters and their generally more flamboyant and adventurous style were comfortably blunted by the well-organized defence of the tourists.

Loveidge was outstanding at scrum, and the French scrum was excellent in every phase and the occasional rapid thrusts of their three-quarters and their generally more flamboyant and adventurous style were comfortably blunted by the well-organized defence of the tourists.

France sadly lacked a breakaway scrum, and the French scrum was excellent in every phase and the occasional rapid thrusts of their three-quarters and their generally more flamboyant and adventurous style were comfortably blunted by the well-organized defence of the tourists.

Penalties by Hewson for New Zealand and Laporte for France left the teams level, but the French scrum was excellent in every phase and the occasional rapid thrusts of their three-quarters and their generally more flamboyant and adventurous style were comfortably blunted by the well-organized defence of the tourists.

Finally McEnroe said he saw no reason why he should not play the French scrum was excellent in every phase and the occasional rapid thrusts of their three-quarters and their generally more flamboyant and adventurous style were comfortably blunted by the well-organized defence of the tourists.

YESTERDAY'S MATCH: FRANCE (13) 13-13 NEW ZEALAND (13) 13-13. FRANCE: 1. Laporte, 2. Hewson, 3. Hewson, 4. Hewson, 5. Hewson, 6. Hewson, 7. Hewson, 8. Hewson, 9. Hewson, 10. Hewson, 11. Hewson, 12. Hewson, 13. Hewson. NEW ZEALAND: 1. Hewson, 2. Hewson, 3. Hewson, 4. Hewson, 5. Hewson, 6. Hewson, 7. Hewson, 8. Hewson, 9. Hewson, 10. Hewson, 11. Hewson, 12. Hewson, 13. Hewson.

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Wallabies can only hope that all will come right on the day

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

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Cornwall's hopes are dashed by a decimal

By David Hands
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